

Syria rejects compromise over Glass

BEIRUT (AP) — Syria on Sunday rejected a compromise offer by kidnappers to release Ali Oseiran, the son of Lebanon's defence minister, and keep American journalist Charles Glass, sources said. The sources said the command of Syria's 7,500-strong army contingent in west Beirut insisted that Mr. Glass, Mr. Oseiran and his Lebanese driver Sulaiman Salama be "freed quickly and unconditionally." The Syrians "also wanted that they would suffer their stance by demanding the surrender of the kidnappers themselves unless the three captives are released soon," one source close to the Syrian command said. The source said the offer was made through unidentified go-betweens who were asked to relay the Syrian position back to the so-far unidentified faction holding the hostages. Fourteen kidnappers grabbed Mr. Glass, 36, Mr. Oseiran, 40, and Mr. Salama, a policeman who doubled as a bodyguard, on a coastal highway in south Beirut's suburb of Qazal on Wednesday. No group has claimed responsibility for the kidnappings.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرائي.

Assad meets Karami's brothers

DAMASCUS (R) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad met the brothers of Lebanon's assassinated Prime Minister Rashid Karami in Damascus on Sunday and asserted his government's determination to help the war-torn country. The official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) quoted Mr. Assad as telling Omar and Maan Karami: "Syria's decision is to stand by the Lebanese to get over the abnormal situation in Lebanon." Mr. Karami, a key Syrian ally in Lebanon, was killed in a mid-air blast aboard a Lebanese army helicopter on June 1. Damascus Radio said Mr. Karami's brothers also met Vice-President Abdul Halim Khaddam and discussed the "large political conspiracy" behind Mr. Karami's killing. The assassination sparked fears of a new round of violence in Lebanon and widened political rifts after Muslim and pro-Syrian leaders accused the army and the rightist Lebanese Forces militia of the killing. Munif Oweidat, the state prosecutor in charge of the judicial inquiry into the assassination, resigned on Saturday in an apparent protest over accusations by Omar Karami that he was a member of an "orchestra of procurators" trying to hold up the probe.

Volume 12 Number 3506

AMMAN, MONDAY JUNE 22, 1987, SHAWWAL 26, 1407

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Syria 1 pound; Lebanon 1 pound; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams; Great Britain 25 pence

Kuwait proposes Philippines talks under OIC aegis

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait on Sunday proposed new talks between the Philippines government and Muslim rebel leaders under the patronage of the 46-member Organisation of the Islamic Conference (OIC). The proposal was made at a meeting between Kuwait's Foreign Minister under-secretary, Faisal Al Muiawa, and Philippines Ambassador Alunan Glang. "Kuwait made the proposal in its capacity as current chairman of the OIC," Mr. Muiawa told the Kuwait News Agency. "Any ruling that would be reached during such talks would be strongly supported as it will be backed by 46 Muslim nations."

Shultz, Weinberger open Sydney talks

SYDNEY (AP) — Secretary of State George Shultz and Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger opened talks Sunday with Australian leaders concerned about U.S. trade policies and potential security threats in the South Pacific. Mr. Shultz and Mr. Weinberger met informally with Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke and members of his cabinet and planned to hold a formal session Monday to discuss strategic issues. The visit is a low-key affair, in part because Mr. Hawke's government is campaigning for re-election in parliamentary elections June 11 and because there are few sources of friction between the two countries other than an agriculture dispute.

Rabin laments Jewish apathy to live in Israel

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Sunday described Israel as a land without a people because most Jews chose to live outside the Jewish state. "For 2,000 years we were a people without a land," he told the World Zionist Movement. "Since 1948, we have had our own state but only 25 to 30 per cent of the world's Jews choose to live here." "We have now become a land without a people."

Saiqa official killed

SIDON (R) — Unidentified gunmen killed a pro-Syrian Palestinian official near this South Lebanese port town on Sunday, police said. They said the attackers ambushed the car of Hafez Kaoush, a senior political official of the pro-Syrian Al Saiqa faction, and riddled it with machinegun fire killing him instantly.

Israeli broadcasters stage strike

TEL AVIV (AP) — Israel's government-owned television and radio stations launched an indefinite broadcasting strike over a wage dispute, while bus drivers maintained a six-day job action Sunday. The broadcasting strike started as a brief job action Thursday when technicians delayed the evening news show "Mabat" by a half-hour. The technicians, who are demanding a six per cent wage increase, then refused to screen other shows Friday.

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UAE leadership defuses Sharjah crisis but haggle seen over sharing power

Sheikh Zayed sponsors negotiations between reinstated ruler and his challenging brother

SHARJAH (Agencies) — Sheikh Sultan Ibn Mohammad Al Qassimi, reinstated as ruler of Sharjah, and his brother who tried to depose him attended talks Sunday to try to resolve their differences.

Arab diplomatic sources quoted by AP said the meetings attended by Sheikh Sultan and the brother, Sheikh Abdul Aziz Ibn Mohammad Al Qassimi, were expected to turn into a tough haggle for power-sharing. The talks were being held under the aegis of United Arab Emirates President Sheikh Zayed Ibn Sultan Al Nahayan. There was no word on whether the two brothers were meeting face-to-face or whether they would instead speak separately to Sheikh Zayed and rely on his mediation.

Iraq warns Iran to expect further destructive attacks

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq warned Tehran on Sunday that it was preparing to launch further destructive attacks on vital Iranian oil and economic installations. "The air force commander, Air Marshal Hameed Shaaban, told the ruling Baath Party newspaper Al Thawra that Iran's rulers must expect "further catastrophes in the near future."

"They must remember that the coming blows will be stronger and with more powerful means and new weapons," he said. Iraq on Saturday ended a self-imposed moratorium on air raids on Iran's oil export supply line, saying it attacked a tanker in the Gulf and bombed the main Iranian oil terminal of Kharg Island for the first time since January. Marshal Shaaban said the raids were deliberately timed to surprise the Iranians.

The 73,700-deadweight-tonne tanker Tenacity was hit in Saturday's raid, regional shipping sources quoted by AP and Reuters said. One source said it might have been berthed at Kharg at the time.

Death toll rises to 17 in Barcelona carbombing

BARCELONA (AP) — Two people seriously injured in a car-bombing at a department store parking garage died Sunday, bringing to 17 the number killed in the Basque separatist ETA's worst single attack.

A Valle Hebron hospital spokesman said Felipe Caparros Ubierna died at midday, followed two hours later by Consuelo Ortega. The Basque separatist group ETA, which means homeland and liberty in the Basque language, set off the carbomb Friday in an underground garage of the department store Hipercor, which is owned by the giant Spanish department store chain El Corte Ingles.

Hospital officials said 22 people remained hospitalised Sunday, all of them in serious condition with severe burns. Eleven others had been treated for smoke inhalation and released. It was the highest death toll of an ETA action since the group began its armed struggle for an independent Basque homeland in northern Spain in 1968. The car, packed with 25 kilograms of explosives, exploded 30 minutes after a bomb threat had been made by telephone to a local newspaper. On Sunday, thousands of people demonstrated in the Barcelona suburb of San Andres where the Hipercor store is located.

Meanwhile in Sharjah, national guardsmen ringed government palace and named sandbagged machine-gun positions in the area on Sunday.

Helicopter gunships hovered over government square, but civilian traffic on the ground was increasing after four days of near paralysis.

The situation in the Gulf in light of escalating Iranian threats to this country's shipping. The cabinet session came a day after Iranian Prime Minister Hussein Musavi accused Kuwait of providing "facilities" for Iraq to resume its air strikes on Iranian tanker routes.

"The cabinet of ministers discussed the latest developments in the Arabian Gulf and their negative outcome on both regional and international levels," Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashid Abdul Aziz Al Rashid told reporters after the meeting.

"The discussions covered various aspects of the situation and means of confronting them with a view to realising security and stability in the region," Mr. Rashid said.

Gulf-based shipping executives feared Saturday's Iraqi air attacks meant that Iran was going to resume raids on shipping in the neutral Gulf waters in retaliation. The Iranian attacks, which have been concentrated on Kuwaiti shipping lanes, had abated when the Iraqi air force stopped attacking Iranian oil shipping lanes.

More than 300 vessels have been damaged by either Iraq or Iran since the so-called tanker war erupted three years ago as offshoot of their ground conflict. Kuwait's ruler Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah presided over a cabinet session Sunday to assess

Shevardnadze links summit to missile pact

BELGRADE (Agencies) — Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard A. Shevardnadze has linked a U.S.-Soviet summit to an agreement on nuclear missiles in Europe and reiterated that U.S. missiles in West Germany must be part of any accord.

In an interview that the Yugoslav news agency Tanjug carried Sunday, Mr. Shevardnadze saw positive elements in the recent NATO foreign ministers' decision made in Reykjavik. But he also noted "a step to the side" from agreements that began to emerge following Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz in Moscow.

Mr. Shevardnadze criticised what he said was "an attempt to get out of the framework of a possible treaty," and keep in West Germany the Pershing I.A. missiles "whose nuclear warheads belong to the United States."

"On our side, warheads for this class of missiles will be removed and destroyed, and the same should be done with the American ones," he said. Dampening earlier expressed optimism, Mr. Shevardnadze reportedly said, "there is still no basis for definitely speaking about progress at the Geneva negotiations, although a certain move forward has been noted."

At a news conference in Budapest on June 18, he described U.S.-Soviet differences on the missiles as one of the biggest hindrances to an accord scrapping the superpowers' shorter-range intermediate nuclear forces in Europe.

Goulding in Tunis after briefing Rifai

TUNIS (Agencies) — U.N. Under-Secretary General Marrack Goulding arrived in Tunis on Sunday for a meeting with Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat on prospects for convening an international conference on the Middle East.

Mr. Goulding ended a visit to Cairo earlier in the day and flew to Tunis after a brief stop-over in Amman where he was received by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai in a meeting attended by Foreign Minister Taher Al Masri.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the U.N. envoy briefed

Mr. Rifai and Mr. Masri on the outcome of his talks during his latest Middle East visit which covered Israel, Syria, Lebanon and Egypt as well as Jordan where he was received by His Majesty King Hussein last Wednesday.

Mr. Goulding's assistant Jean-Claude Aime and Jordan's Permanent delegate to the U.N. Abdullah Salah also attended the U.N. envoy's talks with Mr. Rifai on Sunday.

Mr. Goulding's tour was aimed at sounding out the views of the leaders of the various countries

Taxing SAA plane hits stationary RJ jet at Vienna airport; 1 slightly hurt

By Salameh B. Ne'matt
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — One passenger aboard a Royal Jordanian (RJ) jet was slightly injured when a South African Airlines (SAA) plane smashed into the nose section of a stationary Jordanian airliner near a runway at Vienna's Schwechat Airport on Saturday, an RJ official said Sunday.

Jihad Irsheid, RJ's vice-president for operations, said the passenger, a guest of the Royal Palace on her way to New York, was "slightly bruised" when the SAA plane's wing tip tore a 3-metre-wide gash on the left side of the RJ Boeing 747's first class section.

"Only the lady was bruised," Mr. Irsheid said. "She was taken to hospital for X-rays and found to be alright." Reports from Vienna said the woman only suffered a hematoma on her right upper thigh.

The SAA plane, also a Boeing

747, was rolling towards the runway for take-off to Zurich en route to Johannesburg and the RJ jet, on a regular Amman-New York flight via Vienna, was waiting on the tarmac for take-off to New York at 1547 GMT when the accident occurred.

"We are definitely not at fault," Mr. Irsheid told the Jordan Times. "The RJ plane was in

RJ to sue SAA, Vienna airport

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Royal Jordanian (RJ) airline said Sunday it was suing the South African Airlines (SAA) and Vienna's Schwechat airport for damages and lost revenues after Saturday's incident in which an SAA plane hit a stationary RJ jet at the Vienna airport. Jihad Irsheid, RJ's vice-president for operations, said the RJ Boeing 747 was expected to remain in Vienna for at least three weeks undergoing repairs.

a legal parking position, waiting for take-off clearance when the SAA jet made a sharp turn and hit it." He said the SAA pilot caused the accident "by cutting the corner."

According to a Vienna airport press release carried by international news agencies, there were 232 passengers and a crew on board the RJ plane and 20 passengers and 17 crew members aboard the SAA jet at the time of the accident.

The RJ passengers, including the slightly bruised woman whose nationality was not immediately known, were able to continue their flight to New York aboard a substitute RJ TriStar flown from London. The 20 passengers of the SAA flight to Johannesburg were rerouted.

Mr. Irsheid said Austrian authorities had informally told the captain of the RJ plane that "he was not at fault and bore no

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Siniora's cars set afire

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Two cars belonging to Palestinian journalist Hanna Siniora, who intends to run for Jerusalem's all-Jewish municipal council, were set on fire Sunday and Mr. Siniora said a Palestinian group was behind the act.

Mr. Siniora, editor of the daily Al Fajr, told Reuters that the Syrian-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) claimed responsibility for the attack.

"It might be because of my proposal to run for the city council," Mr. Siniora said.

A slogan daubed on a wall over the cars and signed by the PFLP read: "Jerusalem belongs to Palestine."

Mr. Siniora has been harshly criticised by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and West Bank leaders, who say his proposal to head an Arab list of candidates in the 1988 municipal election recognises Israeli claim of sovereignty over Arab Jerusalem.

The 47-year-old editor said the attack would not deter him from running for the city council. "I am currently in touch with a number of international law experts abroad... I am waiting for their opinions as to whether my ideas constitute recognition of Israeli sovereignty."

"It is according to their answers that I will proceed or not — not according to pressure from others," Mr. Siniora said.

Mr. Siniora, who announced his decision to run on the eve of the 20th anniversary of the 1967 war, has said that contesting the Jerusalem elections could influence the Middle East peace process.

Mock scoffs at Israeli criticism of Waldheim visit

VIENNA (AP) — Austrian Foreign Minister Alois Mock Sunday strongly rejected Israel's criticism of a planned visit to the Vatican by President Kurt Waldheim and announced a diplomatic protest.

In a television debate, Mr. Mock said he had instructed Thomas Kestel, his most senior aide, to summon Israeli Charge d'Affaires Gideon Yarden on Monday to tell him "that we don't put up with that."

Dr. Waldheim will be granted an audience by Pope John Paul II next Thursday in what is his first official visit abroad. The visit has been denounced by Jewish organisations in many countries.

Mr. Mock termed official Israeli criticism of Dr. Waldheim's meeting with the pontiff "an unfriendly act."

"On the first day (Israel's) for a ministry said that the visit was an internal affair between Austria and the Vatican," Mr. Mock recalled. "But a day later — whoever may have intervened — the forthcoming visit in Rome was condemned."

Israeli spokesman Ehud Gol said on Thursday: "The Vatican's decision to invite Waldheim has

surprised the Jewish world and the state of Israel. We wonder what were its motives and we condemn the decision."

Mr. Mock also announced that on Sunday or Monday Ambassador Helmut Tuerk of his ministry's international law bureau will ask Swiss historian Hans Rudolf Kurz to chair an international commission of historians that is to probe Dr. Waldheim's wartime past.

The other members of the commission have not yet been identified. Mr. Mock described international criticism of Dr. Waldheim's Vatican visit as "immense injustice and arrogance" and an offence against the president and the Austrian people.

He acknowledged that Austria finds itself at present "in a quite difficult situation" internationally, but said Austria must show "self-respect."

"We must get out of this situation again," the minister declared, "but not at the cost of self-surrender, not at the cost of becoming a vassal state on which other people wipe off their shoes."

South Korean ruling party draws up 'democracy' programme to quell unrest

SEOUL (Agencies) — South Korea's ruling party met on Sunday to decide how much democracy they must offer the country to halt a wave of angry anti-government protests which have brought major clashes daily between citizens and riot police.

The Democratic Justice Party drew up a programme of what it called democratisation reforms which were to be presented to President Chun Doo Hwan on Monday, Seoul Radio said.

It gave no details of what was decided, but it quoted some party officials as saying that Mr. Chun could help resolve the crisis by scrapping his April 13 ban on all attempts to debate giving South Korea a more democratic voting system until after next year's Olympic Games.

The radio said some party members proposed holding a referendum later this year to let the public decide what form of government the country should adopt.

Other proposals included ending the two-month house arrest of top dissident Kim Dae-Jung, lifting curbs on a free press, releasing demonstrators arrested in the recent disturbances and stopping human rights violations.

The streets of the capital were relatively calm on Sunday, but further crowd violence was reported in Pusan, Kwangju and Taegu. Even the honeymoon island of Cheju joined the list, with about 1,000 students and sympathisers staging a peaceful "march for democracy."

In Pusan, police arrested hundreds of protesters and supporters in a lightning operation that marked dramatic changes in tactics against the growing anti-government unrest.

The parliamentary caucus discussions in Seoul were led by party chairman Roh Tae-Woo, the man Mr. Chun has endorsed as his choice of successor.

The protests Sunday were largely peaceful and smaller in scale than in recent days. But police took the offensive, charging the demonstrators, from all sides.

Although government officials have not said when an announcement might be made on possible political concessions, there was speculation that Mr. Chun could act before the arrival on Tuesday of U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Gaston Sigur.

Mr. Sigur, who scheduled the Seoul trip at short notice, has several times this year called for democratic reforms in South Korea and for the country's military to stay out of politics.

U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz, during a week-long visit to Asia that has also taken him to the Philippines and Singapore, has toughened his language on the South Korean riots almost daily.



Prime Minister Zaid Rifai confers with U.N. Under-Secretary General Marrack Goulding during a stop-over at the U.N. envoy made in Amman en route to Tunis on Sunday (Petra photo)

in the region on convening the proposed international conference. Jordan and Egypt have called for the conference to be convened under United Nations

auspices with the participation of the five permanent members of the Security Council and all parties involved in the Arab-Israeli conflict.



Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker

Sharif Zaid thanks King and renews pledge of loyalty and allegiance

AMMAN (Petra) — Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, commander-in-chief of the Jordanian Armed Forces, Sunday sent a cable to His Majesty King Hussein expressing deep gratitude and appreciation of the King's decision to promote him to the rank of field marshal.

In his message Marshal Sharif Zaid said he was honoured by the promotion and pledged to continue to serve the Jordanian Armed Forces "which inherited the mission of the Great Arab Revolt and its principles with all determination and faith."

Marshal Sharif Zaid said the "teachings of our grandfathers will serve as a guideline for our work and a beacon leading us towards achieving the objectives of the Great Arab Revolt in preserving the Arab Nation's dignity and freedom."

Marshal Sharif Zaid said he was determined to work under the leadership and guidance of the King with renewed efforts and added resolve. He said on this occasion he was honoured to pledge renewed allegiance and loyalty of all members of the Armed Forces to the Hashemite throne.

Last Wednesday, King Hussein conferred on the Armed Forces commander-in-chief the rank of field marshal in appreciation of his long service and his dedication to serve the Arab Nation.

Mahdi warns against strikes if Islamic Laws are changed

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) — Prime Minister Sadek Al Mahdi on Sunday warned Muslim fundamentalists against carrying out their threats of demonstrations and strikes if strict Islamic Laws are changed.

Mr. Mahdi, in his new government's policy statement on June 10, proposed exempting non-Muslims from Sharia, a move which could satisfy Christian and animist southern rebels and pave the way for peace talks in the four-year-old rebellion.

The attorney general's office is presently preparing the substitute laws, which also change Islamic Laws concerning the economy. The new laws are expected to be presented to parliament for ratification in less than a month.

Mr. Mahdi's centrist Umma Party holds a majority in parliament with 99 seats, the centrist Democratic Unionist Party holds 63 seats, the fundamentalist National Islamic Front 51 seats,

southern parties 27 seats, Communists three seats and the rest of the 264 seats belong to small parties.

Mr. Mahdi spoke to reporters after attending members of the constituent assembly or Parliament endorsed his policy statement with a majority of 158 votes against 53.

Observers said those who rejected the statement were from the National Islamic Front and the Communist Party. The observers also said they expected Mr. Mahdi to be able to pass his substitute laws through parliament, although with a smaller majority since some members of his Umma Party and the Democratic Unionists are strong belie-

vers in Islam. "It will be dangerous if the opposition will elect the style of strikes and demonstrations in launching an unconstitutional defiance of this government," Mr. Mahdi said.

Without specifically mentioning the National Islamic Front but in clear reference to its recent threats of strikes and demonstrations if Islamic Laws are changed in any way, Mr. Mahdi warned against "moving the political fight from parliament to the street."

He did not say what the government's reaction would be.

He said Sudan remained committed to "a middle strata committed to Islam and the Afro-Arabs."

Mr. Mahdi became prime minister in 1986, one year after a general strike and street demonstrations pushed the military to overthrow then-President Jaafar Numeiri. Mr. Mahdi contends

that the Sharia Laws which Mr. Numeiri decreed in 1983 deviated from the true spirit of Islam and needed amendments.

The 1983 laws also aggravated the four-year-old rebellion in the south. The rebels, a minority of Christians and animists fighting against the Muslim majority in the north, are demanding administrative and economic reforms.

Mr. Mahdi also told reporters that new laws will shortly be enacted to ensure "rationalised" press reports regarding the armed forces to guard against the demoralisation of the army and unwarranted interference in its affairs.

Since the 1985 coup, the Sudanese press has been completely free, reporting on both army and rebel casualties and losses. The press has recently carried reports on changes among senior army posts.

Kurdish rebels in Turkey kill 31 in raid

ANKARA (R) — Kurdish rebels killed 31 people, including 14 children, in their bloodiest attack in a three-year guerrilla war for autonomy, the semi-official Anatolian Agency reported Sunday.

It said the massacre took place in the village of Pinarcik near the south eastern Turkish town of Mardin near the Syrian border. It said the insurgents, armed with automatic weapons, rockets and hand grenades, moved into the village at around 10 p.m. (1900 GMT) Saturday night and used megaphones to order people to a central square.

They then raked the area with automatic weapons fire and attacked three homes where some of the villagers had taken refuge, the agency said.

It listed the dead, who ranged in age from four to 45 and included the village headman, Izzettin Yavuz. A few were unidentified.

The toll was by far the highest in a single attack since August 1984 when rebels launched a new guerrilla war in their fight for a separate Kurdish state.

More than 250 civilians, 150 members of the security forces and 245 guerrillas have been killed in the war.

Anatolian said the governor of Mardin province, Alaadin Turhan, and the local army brigade commander, Brigadier General Erdinc Aygun, had gone to Pinarcik to investigate the attack.

Security forces launched a major hunt for the rebels using helicopter troops, special squads trained for the jobs and commands.

The attack followed a report in the mass-circulation daily Huriyet last week that the leader of the rebel Kurdish Workers Party, Abdullah Ocalan, had issued orders from his Damascus headquarters for a new offensive in Turkey.

This, it said, would be waged by guerrillas who would be based in Turkey rather than by rebel bands crossing from neighbouring countries as before.

Israeli lieutenant, 5 others charged with torture at Gaza detention camp

BEERSHEBA — An Israeli army lieutenant, military policemen, and soldiers of the Givati Brigade have been charged with repeated cases of physical assault, verbal humiliation, and other abuses committed during their service at the Gaza detention camp dubbed Ansar II.

An investigation is now underway to probe an apparent cover-up of the affair. The Jerusalem Post has learned. Commander of the Israeli occupation army, Gen. Yitzhak Mordechai, has ordered all those involved brought to justice.

The six defendants accused of

abusing prisoners have denied all the allegations.

According to the charges, brought before a Southern Command military tribunal last week, soldiers at the camp allegedly used a 12-year-old detainee as a "football," in a "soccer game" organised by one soldier.

In another of the dozen counts brought against the defendants, a military police sergeant is said to have administered a series of "karate-style" beatings to handcuffed internees clad only in their underwear. "I'm Bruce Lee!" the sergeant is alleged to have shouted as he ran from inmate to inmate.

Another of the defendants, corporal, allegedly grabbed a 14-year-old boy, choked him, slapped him, and pushed him against the walls of the room, telling other soldiers, "It's nice playing ping-pong with him."

Still other instances of alleged humiliation included demanding that the inmates grant soldiers "donkey rides."

The army lieutenant, who commanded the facility at the time of the alleged incidents, stands accused of not having prevented the reported abuses — The Jerusalem Post.

Congress reversing stand on Gulf plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — Congress appears to be swinging from outright hostility to unenthusiastic support for President Ronald Reagan's plan to provide naval escorts to 11 Kuwaiti oil tankers in the Gulf.

"If the Congress were to reverse him, by cutting off the money or perhaps other courses of action, it would add another negative chapter to U.S. credibility in the Gulf region," said one of Mr. Reagan's key backers, Republican Sen. John Warner.

Aides to four top opposition Democratic lawmakers said sentiment appeared to be shifting toward what one called "the Warner thesis," that Mr. Reagan has made a weak case but that reversal by Congress could further cripple U.S. foreign policy.

"We've got no good options," Democratic representative Les Aspin said at the end of the week. Arab diplomats, watching the debate closely, said failure to fulfill Mr. Reagan's promise to Kuwait would undercut the American position in the region, which was badly damaged by the Iranian revolution in 1979-80, the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the taking of U.S. hostages in Iran and Lebanon, and the attacks that forced the Marines to withdraw from Beirut and the secret sale of arms to Iran.

The chances that Congress will wind up endorsing Mr. Reagan's plan, or reaching a compromise, were far from clear, Senate majority whip Alan Cranston said through a spokesman. "And an aide to another top Democrat said 'the process of consultation could go on for weeks before this

thing goes through." Senate Democratic leader Robert Byrd said at the beginning of the week that Mr. Reagan's plan is "half-baked and poorly developed," and the Senate Republican leader, Robert Dole, said "the administration needs to do a better job of explaining it."

After a week of explanations, an aide to a Democratic committee chairman said that "opinion has not crystallised." Despite misgivings, "people aren't sure they want to jerk the rug out from under the president."

Capitol Hill opposition to Mr. Reagan's plan was channelled into resolutions that would either bar the refueling altogether, or invoke the war powers act, which requires congressional approval for putting U.S. forces in a combat area for more than 90 days.

A chief opponent of Mr. Reagan's plan, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Claiborne Pell postponed until next Thursday a panel vote to bar the refueling and ask the United Nations to guard the oil lanes.

Mr. Reagan generated little enthusiasm for his warning, saying in a nationally televised speech last Monday night, "that if we don't do the job, the Soviets will."

But in numerous hearings and meetings and a Pentagon report sent to Capitol Hill, the administration message came through that, in the words of Frank Carlucci, the White House national security adviser, "we cannot afford to let hostile powers — either the Soviets or the Ayatollah (Ruhollah Khomeini) — gain a choke hold in so central a

region." Backing away from the deal "would cause us problems" in the Arab World at a time when the United States is working across the board to curb growing Soviet influence in the region, said one White House official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The United States has been trying for several months to garner Arab support to limit the Soviet role in a proposed United Nations conference on tempering the Arab-Israeli conflict.

And administration officials said they agreed to reflag the Kuwaiti vessels last spring "before all the policy pieces were in place" because the Kuwaitis had agreed to lease three Soviet tankers.

Lawmakers reacted cautiously to hints by CIA and Pentagon officials, who said the danger of Iranian attacks on U.S. ships in the Gulf were "low to moderate," in the 20 per cent to 40 per cent range of likelihood.

Pentagon officials said that to reduce the risk, they would boost the U.S. naval force in the region from six to eight ships, and that they were in agreement with Saudi Arabia to expand airborne surveillance toward the month of the Gulf, where Iran may deploy Chinese-made Silkworm anti-ship missiles.

Arab nations were watching closely to judge the U.S. commitment in the Middle East in the wake of last week's decision, made in the face of overwhelming congressional opposition, to withdraw a proposal to sell Saudi Arabia 1,600 Maverick anti-air missiles.

Residents return to war-torn Basra

By Philip Shehadi
Reuters

BASRA — Barbed wire, sandbags and army posts still line the once elegant river bank promenades.

Shops are shuttered and shattered woodwork scars the facade of a big hotel.

But the residents are trickling back into shell-torn Basra, to streets and buildings hartered in one of the fiercest artillery bombardments of the long Gulf war.

Iran launched a major drive towards this southern Iraqi city in January.

Shells and mortar bombs hailed down at the rate of up to 1,000 a day as Iranian troops pushed towards the suburbs.

Iraqi officials estimate the shelling killed more than 300 civilians. Diplomats in Baghdad say some 15,000 Iraqi soldiers and three times as many of their enemy died in fighting which raged for several weeks, leaving Iraqis still entrenched Sunday in an area some 12 kilometres from the city.

The battlefields are quieter now, but Iraqi artillery still booms in the distance and there was sporadic Iranian shelling for three hours earlier this month. Residents say the last heavy bombardment was in mid-May.

In large parts of Basra, Iraq's second city with a population of one million before the Gulf war began in 1980, streets and public buildings are still sandbagged, homes abandoned amid the rubble and broken glass.

An Iraqi official said that at the height of the Iranian drive, at least a quarter of a million civilians took refuge elsewhere, turning worst-hit areas near the Shatt Al Arab waterway into a virtual no-man's land.

But signs of life are reappearing along the Shatt Al Arah, confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers flowing into the



northern Gulf.

"People are coming back," said hotelier Antoine Marokki, standing in the ruined hall of his house in the riverfront Ashaar district as workers mixed cement and laid fresh tiles.

Marokki said a rocket crashed through the roof of his hallway only metres from where he was sleeping on the night of Jan. 9, when the Iranian cross-border offensive was launched.

Like other Basra residents, he filed for government compensation and hopes to receive 6,000 dinars (\$19,200) for repairs and for wrecked and stolen property.

Nearby, the owner of Karen's workshop repairs refrigerators, air conditioners and other appliances damaged in the worst of the attack. Business is booming, he says.

A tour of the city shows little reconstruction in progress, but there are signs that several dozen houses near the Shatt have been reoccupied.

In front of the Sberaton Hotel, closed in January, lie the half-sunken hulks of three tankers, trapped in the waterway early in the war, now standing stark against the backdrop of lush date

plam groves and desert battle lines beyond.

The Sberaton had several direct hits, one of which tore a gaping hole in a third floor suite. Another knocked out the rooftop air conditioning unit. Bits of wood from its delicate balconies still dangle from the facade.

The lobby of Basra's only remaining first-class hotel, the Hamdan, is encased in sandbags and punctured with shrapnel. A hotel official said it was waiting for promised government compensation to begin repairs.

In the less damaged old city, founded in the seventh century, life seems near to normal with a bustling souk still hunting at its former glory as the northern Gulf's premier commercial crossroads.

Soldiers on day leave fill the restaurants, get their leather boots mended and spend their money on music cassettes, clothes and fresh fruit juice.

The government has launched a restoration project in the old city to preserve the yellow brick Ottoman houses with their arched doorways and carved wooden balconies.

Aziz: Over 1 million dead in Gulf war

CARACAS (R) — Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz has said that more than one million soldiers, most of them Iraqis, have been killed in the seven-year-old Gulf war.

He told reporters at a news conference on Saturday night there were no exact figures on casualties, but he believed less than one fifth of the soldiers killed in the conflict were Iraqis.

Mr. Aziz said the casualty ratio in combat was between five and ten Iranian soldiers killed for every Iraqi soldier who died.

The minister added there were slightly more than 70,000 prisoners of war in the conflict, the majority of them Iraqis held in Iran.

Mr. Aziz arrived in Venezuela two days ago as part of a tour of countries belonging to the United Nations Security Council.

He is presenting the Arab League's peace plan, which calls for an immediate cease-fire and negotiations leading to a permanent peace.

Saudi Arabia said to have financed pro-Western causes

NEW YORK (R) — Saudi Arabia, often at the urging of the United States, has secretly contributed billions of dollars since the early 1970's to movements and governments in dozens of countries to further Western, anti-Marxist interests, the New York Times reported Sunday.

The paper said interviews with diplomats, intelligence specialists and lawmakers suggest that Saudi Arabia regularly helped finance U.S. foreign policy, especially in areas where the U.S. executive branch has been unwilling or unable to gain congressional support for its goals and programmes.

In the last two decades Saudi money has assisted pro-Western movements or governments in countries such as Afghanistan, Yemen, Somalia, the Sudan, Pakistan, Zaire and Nicaragua, the New York Times said.

Saudi Arabia's secret \$32 million contribution to the Nicaraguan rebels, brought to light as a result of the Iran-contra scandal, was not an isolated case, but a well-established pattern of Saudi diplomacy through the last four U.S. administrations.

"They (the Saudis) have been terrific in lots of places," the

paper quoted a former diplomat with wide experience in the Middle East as saying. "Anytime we need them to pay for something, we always turned to the Saudis. We viewed them as this great milk cow."

In most cases, the contributions have furthered Saudi national interests by opposing Communism and promoting stability in Muslim countries, the paper said.

But they have also been motivated by a desire to cultivate American friendship and military support, as was demonstrated Friday when the Saudis agreed to

allow surveillance planes based on their territory expand patrols over the Gulf and protect American-flag ships, it added.

"I view it as a very cooperative, mutually beneficial relationship, built on an identity of views," the paper quoted a senior administration official as saying.

On the issue of Israel, however, those views do not coincide. The Saudis have long used their wealth to finance Arab states opposing, including Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

The Saudis acknowledge giving about \$3 billion a year in public

foreign aid programmes and their secret contributions have apparently amounted to another billion in some years, the paper said.

Citing a knowledgeable American source, it said Washington and Riyadh had financed "well in excess" of \$500 million a year to aid insurgents in Afghanistan.

The Saudis, at the request of the American ambassador, provided a considerable amount of money to the government of Somalia in the late 1970s and helped switch that country's alignment from the Soviet Union to the West, the paper said.

TV & RADIO

WHAT'S GOING ON

FOR THE TRAVELLER

USEFUL TELEPHONE NOS.

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| JORDAN TELEVISION Tel: 77111-19 | | 23:05 Evening Show Continued 24:00 Close Down |
| PROGRAMME ONE | | |
| 15:30 Koran | | |
| 15:50 Programme Review | | |
| 15:55 Cartoons and children's programme | | |
| PROGRAMME TWO | | |
| 17:30 Arabic series | | |
| 18:30 Cultural debate | | |
| 19:30 Local programme | | |
| 20:00 News in Arabic | | |
| 20:30 Message from Oman | | |
| 21:00 Arabic series | | |
| 21:50 Cultural panel discussion | | |
| 22:40 Arab Scholars | | |
| 23:00 News Summary in Arabic | | |
| 23:10 Arab Scholars continued | | |
| PROGRAMME TWO | | |
| 18:00 Marie Perle (French comedy) | | |
| 19:00 News in French | | |
| 19:15 Sport magazine (French) | | |
| 19:30 News in Hebrew | | |
| 19:45 Magazine Zero One | | |
| 20:00 News in Arabic | | |
| 20:30 Three Up, Two Down | | |
| 21:10 Magnum | | |
| 22:00 News in English | | |
| 22:30 Whose Baby? (mini series) | | |
| RADIO JORDAN 857 KHz. AM & 99 MHz. FM & partly on 95.0 KHz. SW Tel: 77411-19 | | |
| 07:00 Light Music | | |
| 07:30 Newsdesk | | |
| 08:00 Morning Show | | |
| 10:00 News Summary | | |
| 10:05 Just a Minute | | |
| 11:00 Follow the Wind | | |
| 12:00 News Summary | | |
| 12:05 30-Minute Theatre | | |
| 13:00 News Summary | | |
| 13:05 Pop Session Cont. | | |
| 14:00 News Bulletin | | |
| 14:30 Just a Minute | | |
| 15:00 Concert Hour | | |
| 16:00 News Summary | | |
| 16:05 Instrumentals | | |
| 16:30 Old Favourites | | |
| 17:00 Men from the Ministry | | |
| 17:30 Pop Session | | |
| 18:00 News Summary | | |
| 18:05 Sports Roundup | | |
| 18:30 Music | | |
| 19:00 News Desk | | |
| 19:30 Date with a Star | | |
| 20:00 Evening Show | | |
| 21:00 News Summary | | |
| 21:05 Evening Show Contd. | | |
| 22:00 News Summary | | |
| 22:05 Evening Show Continued | | |
| 23:00 News Summary | | |

| | |
|---|--|
| TODAY'S EVENTS | |
| EXHIBITIONS | |
| * An exhibition of paintings by Jany Boudry at the Architectural Gallery, Riyadh Centre, Jabel Amman* (until June 26). | |
| * An art exhibition by Omar Bazzal at the Housing Bank Centre's gallery (until July 18). | |
| * An exhibition of plastic art by Hiyam Abaza and Huda Qasem at the Royal Cultural Centre (until June 25). | |
| FRENCH MUSIC | |
| * Posters on French song and non-stop video concerts at the French Cultural Centre (until July 1) | |
| VIDEO | |
| * A special video presentation "The Graduate" at 7:00 p.m. at the American Centre. | |
| CULTURAL CENTRES | |
| Royal Cultural Centre .. Tel. 661026/ American Centre .. 664371 American Centre Library .. 641520 British Council .. 6361478 French Cultural Centre .. 637009 Goethe Institute .. 641993 Soviet Cultural Centre .. 642030 Spanish Cultural Centre .. 620439 Turkish Cultural Centre .. 639777 Haya Arts Centre .. 667019 Husseini Youth City .. 641793 Y.W.C.A. .. 646251 American Medical Library .. 637111 Univ. of Jordan Library .. 843553 | |
| MUSEUMS | |
| "Children's Heritage and Science Museum" Fun and knowledge for all ages, plus a small planetarium at the ages, plus a small planetarium at the Haya Arts Centre. Open all week 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. Closed on Friday. | |
| Faidura Museum: Jewelry and costumes over 100 years old. Also models from Madaba and Jerash (4th to 18th centuries). The Roman Theatre, Amman. Opening hours: 9:00 a.m.-3 p.m. Year-round. Tel. 651760. | |

| | |
|--|--|
| QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT | |
| This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08) 53200-5, where it should always be verified. | |
| ARRIVALS | |
| ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) | |
| 10:15 Aqaba (RJ) | 10:15 Cairo (RJ) |
| 10:20 Larana (RJ) | 10:20 Damascus (RJ) |
| 10:30 Muscat, Dubai (RJ) | 10:30 Kuwait (RJ) |
| 10:55 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ) | 10:55 Cairo (RJ) |
| 10:40 Vienna, New York (RJ) | 10:40 Athens (RJ) |
| 11:00 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ) | 11:00 Bucharest (RJ) |
| 11:10 Bangkok (RJ) | 11:10 Baghdad (RJ) |
| 06:55 Muscat (add.) (GF) | 06:55 Cairo (MS) |
| 10:20 Bahrain (GF) | 10:20 Kuwait (KU) |
| 10:30 Ankara, Istanbul (TK) | 10:30 Kuwait (KU) |
| 10:40 Baghdad (IA) | 10:40 Beirut (ME) |
| 06:40 Baghdad (AF) | 06:40 Cairo (RJ) |
| DEPARTURES | |
| ROYAL JORDANIAN FLIGHTS (Terminal 1) | |
| 06:40 Amsterdam, New York (RJ) | 06:40 Bucharest (RJ) |
| 12:10 Paris (RJ) | 12:10 Athens (RJ) |
| 12:45 Vienna, Chicago, Los Angeles (RJ) | 12:45 Frankfurt, Copenhagen (RJ) |
| 13:15 Cairo (RJ) | 13:15 Kuwait (RJ) |
| 20:35 Abu Dhabi, Bahrain (RJ) | 20:35 Bahrain, Doha (RJ) |
| 20:50 Baghdad (RJ) | 20:50 Jeddah (RJ) |
| 21:15 Cairo (RJ) | 21:15 Kuwait (RJ) |

| | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| OTHER FLIGHTS (Terminal 2) | |
| 07:00 Cairo, London (BA) | 11:10 Frankfurt (LH) |
| 14:05 Cairo (MS) | 14:05 Bahrain, Doha (GF) |
| 14:45 Kuwait (KU) | 15:35 Ankara, Istanbul (TK) |
| 16:20 Kuwait (KU) | 18:30 Baghdad (IA) |
| 01:40 Paris (AF) | 01:40 Cairo (RJ) |
| PRAYER TIMES | |
| 03:50 Fajr | 05:27 Sunrise |
| 12:38 Dhulh | 16:18 'Asr |
| 19:48 Maghreb | 21:25 'Isha |
| MONEY EXCHANGE | |
| Sunday rates | |
| Belgian franc | 85.1/ 85.5 |
| Dutch guilder | 164.6/ 166.3 |
| French franc | 55.6/ 56 |
| Italian lira | 25.7/ 26 |
| Japanese yen (for 100) | 234/ 236.5 |
| Swedish crown | 53.4/ 53.7 |
| Swiss franc | 223/ 225.4 |
| U.K. sterling pound | 546.6/ 552 |
| U.S. dollar | 339.5/ 342 |
| W. German mark | 185.4/ 187.3 |
| WEATHER | |
| Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology. | |
| It will be fair with northwesterly moderate winds in Aqaba, wind will be northerly moderate and calm sea. | |
| AMMAN | |
| Min./max. temp. | 16/ 23 |
| Aqaba | 25/ 38 |
| Deserts | 18/ 34 |
| Jordan Valley | 19/ 36 |
| Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 28.5, Aqaba 37.5. Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 16 per cent. | |
| EMERGENCIES | |
| Amman governorate | 891228 |
| Amman Civil Defence | 198, 199 |
| Civil Defence Irbid | 271293, 273311 |
| Civil Defence Qusweish | 770753 |
| Civil Defence Dera Aila | 57306 |
| Ambulance | 193, 77511 |
| Amman downtown fire brigade | 198 |
| First aid | 630341 |
| Blood Bank | 778930 |
| Civil Defence rescue | 661111 |
| Fire headquarters | 245336 |
| Police rescue | 192, 621111, 657777 |
| Police headquarters | 639141 |
| Traffic police | 896390/1 |
| Electric Power Co. | 636381/4, 624881 |
| Municipal water complaints | 671258 |
| Queen Alia Int. Airport | 08/533060 |
| HOSPITALS | |
| Husseini Medical Centre | 813813/32 |
| Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn. | 644281/6 |
| Akshah Maternity, J. Amn. | 624214/2 |
| Madina J. Amman | 642502 |
| Palestine, Shmeisani | 664172/4 |
| Shmeisani Hospital | 669131 |
| University Hospital | 645845 |
| Al-Mudhar Hospital | 667229/4 |
| The Islamic, Abdal | 646330 |
| Al-Ahli, Abdal | 664164/6 |
| Italian, Al-Muhajreen | 777101/3 |
| Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh | 775111/26 |
| Army, Marha | 891611/15 |
| Queen Alia Hospital | 664000/0 |
| Amal Hospital | 674155 |
| GENERAL | |
| Jordan Television | 773111/19 |
| Radio Jordan | 774111/19 |
| MARKET PRICES | |
| Upper/lower price in fils per kg. | |
| Appicot | 800/ 770 |
| Apple (Lebanese & Turkish) | 300/ 240 |
| Banana | 430/ 400 |
| Banana (Mukammarr) | 720/ 720 |
| Beans | 250/ 200 |
| Cabbage | 1100/ 800 |
| Carrot | 130/ 100 |
| Cauliflower | 630/ 100 |
| Cucumbers | 160/ 100 |
| Eggplant (large) | 200/ 160 |
| Eggplant (small) | 240/ 200 |
| Garlic (green) | 300/ 400 |
| Garlic (dry) | 100/ 80 |
| Lemon | 180/ 160 |
| Malwa | 150/ 100 |
| Marrow | 150/ 100 |
| Onion (dry) | 300/ 200 |
| Orange (local) | 340/ 300 |
| ORZ | 240/ 200 |
| Peanut | 180/ 150 |
| Peas | 200/ 150 |
| Peppercorn | 180/ 150 |
| Pepper (black) | 200/ 150 |
| Pepper (white) | 200/ 150 |
| Potatoes | 200/ 150 |
| Radish | 200/ 150 |
| Sweetmelon | 100/ 80 |
| Tomatoes | 100/ 80 |

Labour federation to discuss recent firings

By Samir Al Hiar
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Central Council of the Federation of Jordanian Labour Unions (FJLU) has called for an extraordinary session on July 1 to examine the case of bank employees who have been laid off recently and also to look into the case of teachers dismissed from private schools in Jordan.

Mr. Sami Hassan Mansour, the federation's president who called for the meeting, said that some of the private schools in Jordan have been dismissing teachers or reducing their salaries under the pretext of reducing expenses.

Two of the foreign banks operating in Jordan, the British Bank of the Middle East and the Grindlays Bank Ltd., were earlier reported to have laid off at least 32 of their employees, a move that was deplored by the FJLU.

A FJLU spokesman said that the meeting on Wednesday com-

es at a critical time when all efforts are being made to reduce unemployment in the Kingdom and the FJLU was doing its best in this respect. The extraordinary meeting, he said, was set at the request of the General Union of Bank Employees (GUBE) in Jordan.

The summary dismissal of the bank employees was at the centre of a meeting held in Amman last Thursday and attended by the Governor of the Central Bank of Jordan, Mr. Hussein Al Qasem.

The case of the bank employees has already been conveyed to Minister of Labour Khaled Al Haj Hassan. The GUBE was reported following up contacts with different sides to solve the problem.

According to Mr. Haidar Rashid, GUBE president, the dismissal of bank employees has created confusion within the financial and banking sector in Jordan, and led to fears that similar lay-offs would be made by other banks.

Higher committee recommends coordinated effort in tourism

AMMAN (Petra) — The higher committee charged with finding means of stimulating tourism in Jordan held its first meeting Sunday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Zaid Rifai.

The committee discussed means of promoting domestic tourism as well as strategies to attract foreign visitors to the Kingdom. The committee aims to develop a comprehensive and integrated strategy that overcomes obstacles tending to impede tourism, and to take organisational measures that can boost the tourism sector in the Kingdom, according to a statement issued after the meeting.

The statement said that the committee underlined the im-

portance of enlisting all efforts for promoting the tourism sector through coordination among various authorities in the private and public sectors involved in the tourism industry. To achieve this, the statement said, the infrastructure and the basic services for tourism that will help market Jordan's attractions abroad should be laid down and a policy for promoting these endeavours should be adopted.

The committee discussed projects scheduled to be set up in a number of areas, like building hotels, tourist camps and tourist villages, and also modernising tourist resthouses around the country, the statement said.

Those attending the meeting

were Field Marshal Sharif Zaid Ibn Shaker, the Armed Forces commander-in-chief, ministers of industry, trade and supply, of finance and of culture, tourism, and antiquities and also the president of the Aqaba Region Authority, the executive director of the Royal Jordanian airline, the economic advisor at the Prime Ministry, the director of the Civil Aviation Authority, the director general of the Hotel Training College, the director of the Tourist Investment Department, the president of the Jordan Hotels Association, the president of the Jordan Travel Agents Association and the president of the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce.

New UNRWA school to be built with Japanese grant

AMMAN (J.T.) — The ground breaking ceremony of the United Nations Relief and Work Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) Jerash school, which will be built with Japanese contribution of \$500,000, was held Sunday, according to a Japanese embassy press release.

The ceremony was attended by the director of UNRWA in Jordan, Mr. Elie J. Saaf, the ambassador of Japan, Mr. Akira Nakayama, senior UNRWA and Jordanian government officials and refugee notables from the Jerash camp. At the ceremony, the Japanese ambassador laid the foundation stone.

The school, expected to be completed in June 1988, will have

three stories and 14 classrooms, 2 administrative rooms, 1 laboratory and 1 library accommodating about 1,640 pupils.

The contribution for this school is part of Japan's \$9.5 million contribution to UNRWA in 1986 and besides this, the government of Japan has been cooperating with UNRWA by donating food-stuffs equivalent to \$7.5 million and receiving 15 trainees to Japan in 1986.

In Jordan, the government of Japan has also donated equipment (approximately \$230,000) to UNRWA Wadi Seer Training Centre last March and cooperation through three Japanese experts is under way.

Saqqaf returns from Egypt after talks on industry

AMMAN (Petra) — Under Secretary of the Ministry of Industry and Trade Mohammad Saqqaf returned to Amman Sunday after heading Jordan's side to the joint Jordanian-Egyptian technical committee meetings which were concluded in the Egyptian capital Saturday evening.

The Jordanian delegation grouped representatives of the Ministry of Industry and Trade, the Jordanian Trade Centres Corporation and the Federation of Jordanian Chambers of Commerce.

Mr. Saqqaf had said that the committee passed a number of resolutions and recommendations aimed at achieving industrial integration between Jordan and Egypt.

The committee underlined the need for promoting industrial coordination in all fields related to production and for the exchange of data, expertise and information about industrial studies, Mr. Saqqaf said.

The committee, he said, urged the two countries to double efforts for exploiting productive capacities at their disposal to serve as substitutes for imported materials, especially in petrochemicals and chemical industries, fertilisers, construction, manufacturing, railways, electronics and industries, affiliated, with the motor vehicle industry.

UNESCO-sponsored panel on illiteracy opens today

AMMAN (Petra) — A five-day conference by under secretaries of ministries of education in 18 Arab countries opens in Amman today at the regional offices of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO).

The delegates will review working papers dealing with the renewal and democratisation of the educational process in the Arab World within the context of socio-economic and cultural development, in addition to promoting regional and international cooperation in education.

Also to be discussed by the conference, organised in conjunction with UNESCO, are the subjects of illiteracy and adult education in the Arab World, organising programmes for observing the international day for illiteracy, in addition to problems impeding education at the secondary and technical levels in the light of the results of an international educational conference held last year.

In addition, the subject of providing education for the people of Palestine under Israeli occupation and the development of science and technology methods in Arab schools will be tackled by the delegates in their meetings, according to a statement from the Ministry of Education on the eve of the conference.

Last week, an education specialist from UNESCO said that the Arab World, which once ranked second after Africa in the ratio of illiterates to the population of the world, has now moved to first place.

A report to be presented to the meeting will include proposals towards decreasing the level of illiteracy by the year 2,000. UNESCO judges that the most important cause of illiteracy is the high birth rate in the Arab World which now stands at three per cent a year, and the lack of facilities to offer education to the ever-increasing number of people.

As to the situation in the occupied Arab territories, the United Nations General Assembly has delegated a researcher to study the problem of illiteracy, and a report on the situation was expected to be submitted to the United Nations by September.

Preparing for national education conference
Speaking on the eve of the

conference, Dr. Radi Waqfi, secretary general of the Ministry of Education, said that Jordan was attaching great importance to the meetings which are aimed at promoting education throughout the Arab World.

The conference is being held as Jordan is making preparations for holding a national conference on education in the wake of tours of Jordanian schools made by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan to pave the way for overhauling the educational system in the Kingdom, Dr. Waqfi said.

The Ministry of Education in Jordan, Dr. Waqfi said, will submit to the meeting its own plans for combating Israeli practices in the occupied territories aimed at disrupting the Arab educational system through distorting textbooks and curricula and through arbitrary and repressive measures against educational institutions, teachers and students.

According to Dr. Waqfi, the meeting will also review recommendations adopted by the Arab ministers of education in Abu Dhabi in 1977 in order to determine what has been achieved and the problems and difficulties that impede the implementation of these recommendations.

Qatari camel adventurers leave Jordan

AQABA (J.T.) — Two Qatari travellers on camel have ended a tour in Jordan and left Aqaba heading for Nuweibeh in Sinai at the start of tour of North African-Arab countries.

The two, Saleh Shammari and Ayed Shammari, arrived in Jordan from Syria on June 1 to the course of their tour of 14 Arab states. The two camel riders visited Amman and its area before

heading south on June 9 for visits to the Nabatean city of Petra and a stop in the port city of Aqaba before crossing into Sinai by ferry.

The two adventurers had embarked on their trip from Muscat, Oman and had visited the United Arab Emirates, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq and Syria before coming to Jordan.

In North Africa they will be

crossing into Libya, after Egypt, Tunisia, Mauritania, Algeria and Morocco.

The two Shammaris have planned two more trips, one through Asia and other through Europe, riding their camels most of the time.

Upon departing from Aqaba, they were seen off by Mr. Ahmad Ragheb, Egypt's consul general in the city.

Work begins on medical institute

IRBID (Petra) — The ground breaking ceremony of a new compound that will house a nursing college and a paramedical institute at Zibdeh Farkouth in Irbid took place Sunday under the patronage of Health Minister Zaid Hamzeh.

Dr. Hamzeh laid the foundation stone of the compound which will have a total area of, nearly

10,000 square metres.

The compound will include a nursing college and paramedical institute which will have an area of 3,772 square metres, and can accommodate 700 male and female trainees, staff quarters of 336 square metres, which accommodates up to 15 teachers and living quarters for the female

trainees (5,867 square metres), to accommodate 360 trainees.

The overall cost of the project due to be completed in 22 months is JD 1.5 million, of which JD 100,000 will be spent on the construction work, and JD 400,000 on purchasing equipment and training facilities and furniture.

13 Arab states are participating in marine panel

AMMAN (Petra) — The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) opened a five-day meeting in Amman on Sunday for marine research centres in Arab countries to discuss ways of promoting the exploitation of marine wealth and coordinating work among Arab countries in the field of marine science.

Delegates from 13 Arab states taking part in the meeting will be discussing subjects related to marine science research, specially in the Gulf, the Red Sea, the southern areas of the Mediterranean Sea, and the eastern parts of the Atlantic Ocean bordering on the shores of Arab countries.

Also to be discussed is a working paper prepared by UNESCO on the present situation in the field of marine science in Arab countries and the outlook for the future.

Addressing the opening session, Dr. Othman Mukhtar Aba Yazid, director of the Amman-based UNESCO's regional office, said that the Arab World is in dire need of the wealth of the seas surrounding it to supply its peoples with fish which is rich with protein.

He said that individual marine research centres in the Arab World cannot independently carry out large projects in the search for means of fully exploiting the sea and its wealth.

Taxiing SAA plane hits stationary RJ jet

(Continued from page 1)

responsibility for the accident. RJ was awaiting the results of an investigation launched into the accident by Austrian authorities.

RJ dispatched a team of Boeing experts to Vienna Sunday afternoon to assess the damage sustained by the Jumbo jet and the structural condition of the plane. Insurance experts were assessing the damage and there was no estimate, yet of the cost of the accident but the damage to both planes was said to be major.

Vienna airport spokeswoman Hilde Elmsen told Reuters the accident was the first of its kind at Schwechat airport, where tarmac space is reportedly constricted by construction work.

مركز التزلج الأردني
JISC Jordan Ice Skating Center
Presents
"THE ROMAN THEATER ON ICE"
Skating stars from U.K., France, Abu Dhabi, China
Official Sponsors:- British Airways
Jerusalem International Hotel

BRITISH AIRWAYS
خطوط الجو البريطانية

Hotel Jerusalem International

From June 25th to July 4th. Two shows daily
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m. - 12:00 midnight.
Admission Charges: British Airways Executive Box
First Class 5 JD
Second Class 3 JD
1 JD

"FOR THE LADIES ONLY"
At the Jordan Ice Skating Center June 27th, 28th & July 3rd
11:00 - 1:00 p.m.
Admission Charges:- British Airways Executive Box 6 JD
First Class 4 JD
Second Class 2 JD
(Limited Seats - For reservations 628534 or 646619)

Tickets will be sold at:
• Jordan Ice Skating Centre
• Roman Amphitheatre Ticket Box Office
• British Airways Intercontinental Hotel
• Jerusalem International Hotel
• Jabal Amman, First Circle, Shahin Market
• Sweet Supermarket/Jabal Amman, 5th Circle, Tel. 813529
• New York New York Restaurant, Shmeisani
• Housing Bank Centre Children World
• Biff Restaurant/Jabal Al Hussein, Tel. 669744
• Hawatmeh Video Centre Downtown
• Al Manar Pharmacy/Marka
• Kurtuba Restaurant/University entrance

ZARKA
Abu Sharar Supermarket Tel. 982829
IRBID
Al Kindi Bookshop
AJLOUN
Green Mountain Cafeteria

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Setting new standards

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established: 1975

Chairman of the Board of Directors:
MAHMOUD AL KAYED

Responsible Editor and Director General:
MOHAMMAD AMAD

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GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
Jordan Press Foundation,
University Road, P.O. Box 6710, Amman, Jordan.

Telephone: 667171-6, 670141-4

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Facsimile: 661242

The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

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Summer is here but where is hygiene?

WE are approaching mid-summer and now is the time to enforce measures to insure a summer in our country free of epidemics and diseases normally associated with the season. It is most unfortunate therefore to notice that street vendors on our streets are not observing simple hygienic guide lines to protect our people and our tourist from the afflictions of the summer. Surely, the sight of vendors selling sweets or cakes off their vending carts without the benefit of simple protective covers against flies and dust should disturb us all by now. We have on our streets untold number of vendors of cold drinks who go about quenching the thirst of our people in crowded streets without observing the simplest methods of cleanliness and the minimum hygienic conditions. It goes without saying that to protect our people and visitors from the recklessness of our vendors is a simple task that calls only for some administrative decisions to make sure that the existing laws and regulations governing health and environment in our country are faithfully applied and enforced. In the same vein, one would think that surveillance of our restaurants should be accentuated during these hot summer days and nights. In fact, every place where our public frequent should become the focus of the attention of our health officials.

On the top of the list of areas which require urgent attention could be our swimming pools where literally thousands of our youngsters go to cool off and pass the summer time with some comfort. We are sure that our health officials are aware of these issues. Like-wise our municipal authorities, we are certain, are also concerned about such matters. But until we see an end to the obvious violations of the minimum hygienic standards on our streets and public places we shall continue to be concerned and worried. If our people and visitors ever fall victim to some health hazard, the economic costs would also be very high and definitely higher than any economic cost that we will have to incur in enforcing our health measures and regulations. We feel that it is high time that the authorities, whether at the state or municipal level, commenced enforcing the required level of hygiene and cleanliness on food and beverages supplied by street vendors as well as other public places.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i: Zionists campaign against Waldheim

ZIONIST circles around the world have begun a new campaign directed against a visit by Austrian President Kurt Waldheim to the Vatican, the first official visit by the Austrian leader outside his country since assuming his post a year ago. The Israelis have succeeded in enlisting support for their campaign from European and American circles and are continuing their propaganda against Waldheim, levelling allegations and false accusations against him. The campaign originally started before Waldheim was elected as president and now it is continuing to mar the prestige of the president who is known for his support for the right of the Palestinian people in their homeland. In their campaign, the Israelis are employing every available means under their disposal, and at this particular moment they are doing all they can to abort Waldheim's meeting with the Pope. In fact, the Israelis are launching their campaign also against the Vatican for this visit, a move supported by the United States which had banned the president from entering its territory in violation of all international principles and laws. Waldheim will be a welcome guest at the Vatican, and he will visit other countries in the world and these visits will be sufficient replies for the Zionists and their malicious campaigns.

Al Dustour: Standing by Waldheim

AUSTRIA, represented by its President Kurt Waldheim, has voiced its deep appreciation of King Hussein for his continuous efforts to serve the cause of peace and serve his people. Waldheim who met with editors of Jordanian newspapers in Vienna spoke about his earlier meetings with the King and the King's wisdom and endeavours to serve just causes and contribute to the security and peace of the world. Waldheim urged the Arabs to continue their efforts and never to despair from the search for peace. It seems that the continued Israeli campaigns against Waldheim and the Vatican have not discouraged the man from pursuing his present position, and his efforts to help bring about a genuine peace in our region. We welcome Dr. Waldheim's visit to Jordan and we support the Vatican's stand which does not succumb to blackmail. We hope that Waldheim who starts his visit to Jordan on July 1 will be offered continued Arab support and help to enable him thwart Zionism's malicious campaigns and conspiracies.

Sawt Al Shaab: U.N. faces Israeli refusal

A CURRENT visit to the Middle East by U.N. deputy secretary general Marrack Goulding represents one of the most difficult missions for the United Nations organisation which is trying to establish peace in this region. This is because the Israelis are making it difficult for Goulding and the United Nations to go ahead with plans for such peace, and doing all they can to impede serious efforts for an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict. Goulding is in the region to enlist all support for peace based on justice, one that would usher in a new era of security and stability in the Middle East. The United Nations and its secretary general are reviving efforts at present for convening an international peace conference, and Goulding is in the Middle East to enlist all possible support for the conference. The U.N. envoy has already won support from the Arab countries which are keen on regaining their rights and attaining peace in their region. The U.N. organisation is now facing a test of ordeal in its endeavours to achieve peace, and to attain this objective there should first be an end to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Contemporary problems require frank dialogue

By Dr. Waleed Sadi

MY neighbourhood grocer tells me that in the old days he was averaging over 400 dinars a day in sales and now he barely grosses 40 a day. One bears similar remarks from practically everybody engaged in a trade or profession or services. Even medical doctors, pharmacists and bakers are joining the bandwagon of complainers about our state of economy. Surely one can sympathise with people who refrain from frequenting lavish restaurants or nightclubs or who refrain from frequenting clothing stores in times of economic hardships, but one at a loss to find an explanation for staying away from physicians or pharmacists or dentists even in a deep economic recession as the one which is inflicted on us. Man has never been known to be money conscious when it comes to efforts to prolong his longevity or save his life, yet the remarks one hears nowadays from our physicians and dentists seem to suggest that our people are doing just that in these dark economic days. Even allowing for cases of exaggerations in describing our bread and butter issues these days, still the overall situation requires soul searching by the governed who appear to be overpessimistic about their lot, and by the governors who are the guardian of our present and custodian of our future.

I do not have to be a theoretician in the science of economics or in the socio-political fields to observe the obvious and state that our general economic malaise including its recessionary and unemployment manifestations are due in great part to the general political climate in the region in which we happen to live. Certainly there are ample monetary and pure economic causes for our material predicaments but I suspect that the general sense of political and military insecurities that permeate our region due to the Gulf war between Iran and Iraq and the lack of a clear vision as to the future of the occupied territories as well as in Lebanon itself have all cast dark clouds over the region as a whole and contributed to the general gloom and despair which infiltrated into our psyche at all levels. This is not to mention the other negative factors such as radicalism, extremism and religious and ethnic intolerances which have crept into our midst either because we were slow in the formation of appropriate institutions or in the adaptation of existing institutions to cope with new and emerging conflicts and challenges. In the face of the multitude of external and internal conflicts and challenges which are confronting us, we seem to be either powerless or impotent or lacking in vision in improvising new concepts and approaches to redress them. Thus old problems are left to simmer and new ones are left to brew because of our determination to cling to old and obsolete ways to deal with them. Given the longevity of our crises both domestic external, and the prognosis for more volcanic eruptions in our region, capital investment became all the more "coward". It is therefore incumbent on us governed and governors to adopt confidence-building measures which could

recreate coherence into our lives and tell us where we are heading and what we are aspiring for. The oscillation between euphoria and pessimism and the lack of clarity in our policies are all strains on our pockets and contribute to our fears and anxieties to the extent that hoarding our monies becomes a priority item on our individual and collective agenda. To put it more bluntly, there is not enough *Musaraba*, frankness, in the dialogue ensuing between and among ourselves whether on the level of governor and governed or on the level of people to people in their factional or even religious dimensions.

To exacerbate the general situation even more, we appear to continue to articulate and adopt economic policies without taking fully the realities mentioned above into consideration. It strikes me that our economic planning is pursued as if we live in a political vacuum and crisis-free environment. To illustrate my point, I only need to refer to the decision to lower interest rates on term deposits in our national banks. We all know now that such a step, which is inherently sound under normal circumstances, did not rekindle or reinvigorate our national economy as anticipated but rather contributed to some outflow of capital from our country into the coffers of other foreign banks. The fault in this context falls again on governed and governor alike. Of course we can always apply a tight lid on currency transfers from Jordan, but if we do that we would also change the nature of our country and transform our economy from a relatively free and not overly regulated into a closed society and an overly regulated economy. In such a process we would undermine the redeeming difference between "us" and the others and render our country indistinguishable from the "others" in the developing Third World.

Another case in point is the decision to hike up the prices on commodities and the augmentation of custom duties on imports at a time when we are in a deep recession and suffering from unemployment. One can sympathise with any decision to raise prices of commodities even in a recessionary situation if such raises are confined to luxury goods and not to bread and butter commodities. But we should be very careful in extending the scope of such a policy to necessary items especially the kind which our unemployed and poor have to purchase to survive. Thus far there are no indications that price rises are intended eventually to all goods and commodities and there is comfort in this which we all can feel and make us sigh with relief. But we should caution ourselves against the extension of this line of policy on a across-the-board basis.

The matter of raising the tariffs duties on our imports is a subject which one hopes will be approached with maximum care and attention as such levies can cut both ways. Traditionally countries have resorted to tariffs on imports to protect their domestic

industries and fill their coffers with added revenues. In this context, there are several schools and various experiments from which we can benefit without having to incur the expenses and dangers associated with conducting our own experimentation. I can refer to one experiment with which I became familiar while serving as a diplomat in Turkey. Although Turkey has a broader base of industrialisation and its industrial production encompasses many of Turkey's needs, Turkey opted for an open door policy to imports and reversed its traditional policy against imports and its decades-long policy of self-reliance in every conceivable industrial production. Turkey adopted this seemingly strange and complete turnaround in its economic policy even though there was a serious unemployment crisis in their midst and elements of a recessionary economy were here and there and everywhere. When asked why the Government of Turgut Ozal was opting for this novel economic policy and seemed to forsake Turkey's relatively infant industries which needed above all protection and nurturing, the answer of Mr. Ozal was something like the following: We need in Turkey to allow imports in order to provide competition for our domestic production with a view to enhance the quality and price-competitiveness of our locally manufactured products under the strain of competition. In other words, what Mr. Ozal was suggesting was that local industries should not be protected at all costs because in doing so neither their quality nor their prices will ever become competitive. Sure enough, the markets of Turkey became flooded with imported goods albeit subjected to various levels of custom duties depending on the degree of their necessities; and at the same time one readily noticed first an amelioration in the quality of Turkish goods which were able in due course to withstand the competition of foreign goods.

The moral of this Turkish story is that in Jordan where we have little industrial production still, putting high levies on imports of goods not produced locally can only add injury to injury as far as our common man on the street is concerned. As for locally produced commodities, we should be careful as not to be over-protective lest the quality and price-competitiveness of our locally manufactured goods become doomed forever to inferiority and high prices.

It is beyond the scope of this writing to go through all aspects of our economic planning and policies to redress our confirmed recession and unemployment. Suffice it to say once again that we need confidence-building measures both political and economic. To begin this long and tortuous road of confidence-building, we certainly need to learn straight talk and clarity of vision. Thank God we enjoy domestic political stability and sound political infrastructure. Our region, however, is volatile and prone to volcanic eruptions. We cannot do much for our region but we can do a lot more internally.

The frozen siege of Shatila

By Zahra Al Bahr

SHATILA lies in ruins, exactly as it was on 6 April when a food convoy finally got in. UNRWA has employed youths to clear the main alleys of rubble; a few repairs have been carried out, here a roof, there a pipe; shops are slowly replenishing their stocks. But such signs of normalisation are minimal, a reflection of a tangle of unresolved issues, between Palestinians and Lebanese, between the PLO and Damascus. While the mood in the camp is one of cautious optimism — Amal is no longer seen as a serious threat — the danger of internal splits still lurks in spite of the Algiers PNC; and the pressures towards migration generated by insecurity and unemployment are feared by some as much as outright attack.

At the only permitted entry to the camp, on Sahra Street, the road is cordoned off by metal railings, with a Syrian soldier controlling the small gap through which everyone must pass. Only metres away Amal's main local office remains open and its men in civilian clothes watch all who enter or leave the camp. Beyond the roadblock, crowds of Shatila men idle among the ruins; they are forbidden to leave the camp. Nor is any adult male permitted to enter. Though a choker on normalisation, the Syrian decree has reduced the danger of Amal attacks on Palestinians outside the camp.

Another visible sign that the siege is only frozen are the Sixth Brigade sentries, still posted around the camp. Further off, Amal super-observation posts remain manned. The only way to reach the inner camp is through smaller alleys of new routes cut through house walls. Though most of the trenches that were the keypoint of Shatila's defensive system have been loosely filled in, the shelters dug under the bases during the siege are still there.

"There is the route where they carried the wounded", says a woman whose devastated home stands next to one of the bases. She points to a path leading up from a damp-looking cave where bits of torn mattress and planks still lie on the ground. Situated at the southwest corner of the camp, this quarter is one of the hardest hit. House repairs aren't even on the agenda, partly because vehicles cannot enter the camp, but more basically because the decision to rebuild is a political one, an issue linked to the villages east of Sidon, the Arafat come-back, the politicians' status in Lebanon, and Syria's Lebanon policies.

On the periphery of the camp destruction is almost total. Further in, most floors above ground level had been blasted away to give the attackers an unobstructed aim, but ground floors are still largely habitable. Some families whose homes have been destroyed, and who can afford to rent outside, have left the camp, especially if they have children in school or university. Families who can't afford the high rents and key money being demanded even for the tin huts near Cola Bridge are camped out in the

ruins wherever they can find a roof and fix a door. Two of Shatila's three schools have been reduced to rubble-filled ground floors; the third is being used as a base by the Syrians.

Even for those whose homes are habitable, reminders of siege conditions remain. Electricity has not been restored — repairing the network would require maintenance teams and vehicles to enter the camp. Water is more plentiful and clear, but still has to be fetched from street taps. Shops have been slow to restock because all supplies must be carried in on foot by women, who shop not only for daily food, but also to replace worn-out clothing, and stock up for possible further siege. It is women who have portered in everything needed by public institutions, from men's boots, to medical supplies and liquid gas containers.

The storeroom of the Red crescent hospital is stacked with foodstuffs and cleaning materials. Rihab proudly points to a set of large red plastic bins holding grains, flour, preserved meat. All this she has carried in, along with other PRCS workers. Beit Afal Al Sumud has a room piled high with bags; each marked with a family's name, filled with clothes and shoes for camp children: All brought in by women. Um Ali has been to Corniche Al Mazraa (five kilometres there and back, fasting) to buy shoes for one of her sons; they don't fit, and she has to repeat the walk next day.

With Syrian units posted so close to the camp, Amal militia cannot v at their frustration as they did after earlier ceasefires by lobbing explosives in at night. But they still control the long

stretch of road that the women and girls from the camp have to take to reach Sabra vegetable market, school, and jobs. Here there have been daily incidents, ranging from insults, to brandishing of arms, even to kidnappings. The news that the Syrians have established a new post near Gaza Hospital, where several kidnaps attempts have occurred, is greeted with relief. The move was made soon after a Red Crescent worker, Nawal Nunu, was grabbed by militiamen on 2 May. Many camp mothers have kept their children out of school for fear of trouble on this road, or that they will be unable to get back if fighting resumes.

On 12 May, soon after midday, the main alley traversing Shatila from east to west is suddenly filled with people running. "Yistafaru!" (they are mobilising!) Who? Where? Why? No one knows; there isn't time for explanations. The rush is to get home, or — for the many people visiting the camp — to get out before fighting erupts. Out on the main street, within sight of the Syrian checkpoint, women debate, each obliged to make a quick, agonising decision. Um Abdullah, who is living outside the camp, has two school-age children who will soon reach home; she must get back to let them in. She decides to make a dash for it. Other mothers have children who will soon be returning to the camp from schools in Sabra. They wait anxiously.

Beyond the checkpoint the street is full of armed men — it's hard to distinguish Amal from the Syrians. Women can be seen running up towards the market, others down towards the camp. A

crowd of Shatila people watch the scene from this side of the barrier, cheering as a lorry load of Syrians appears, chasing Amal into the side streets. It could be a football match. But inside the camp the youths have been called to action stations. "Back to the barricades!", shouts a passing youth. The crowd grins.

Now women and schoolgirls begin to arrive, recounting their experience as they ran the Amal rounds: Kalashnikovs pointed at them in the market; a tank mounted with a machine-gun following behind; indecision whether to stay outside or make a run for it. Sabra, a schoolgirl, coming down alone, was too terrified to move until a neighbour took her hand; she arrives pale and trembling. But for some this is an opportunity to show their cool. Inan decides to go out "as a trial", adding to the kudos she won last week when an Amal militiaman put his pistol to her head in Sabra, and she didn't flinch.

The cause of the battle alert finally becomes clear when five civilian cars try to leave the camp. Two days ago, they brought in some top Fatah dissidents. Now they want to leave, but local Amal leaders have sworn to fire at them if they do. A few hours later, after "talks", Amal's opposition is swept aside and they leave without a shot being fired. The incident illustrates the current strain in relations between the Syrians and their closest Lebanese ally. One can understand why some Palestinians are taking bets that the two will soon be fighting. But the bet-takers are not among the politicised — Middle East International, London.

Refugees abandon the camp

The siege of Shatila was lifted in April, but the camp is slowly bleeding to death. Julie Fimi reports.

LATE last month, a young Palestinian couple in Shatila were married. The venue — a Syrian army checkpoint on the edge of the camp.

Although the siege of Beirut's camps was proclaimed "lifted" early in April, the roads out of the camps are, in reality, open only to women and children. Shite militiamen still encircle the camps, and an increasingly indiscreet "move" and few Palestinian men are able to leave in safety. No men at all are allowed in — not even a sheikh, summoned to perform a religious ceremony.

In Shatila, says Dr. Cris Giannou, the Canadian surgeon whose voice is to Shatila what Dr. Pauline Cutting's was to Bourj Al Barajneh, "the situation is catastrophic."

Despite the end of the fighting, morale is very low. "There is no electricity, or regular water supply," says Dr. Giannou. "The major artesian well pump has blown out. Sewers are overflowing. We are eating our fill of disgust and frustration. Even a prisoner knows the length of his sentence. But our sentence has no end."

Dr. Giannou himself has not been able to leave Shatila for almost two years. Once home for some 12,000 Palestinians, the camp now has a population of less than 1,000.

People are trying to get out by any means whatever, which include deserting the PLO chairman Yasser Arafat's Fatah organisation in favour of anti-Arafat, pro-Syrian groups

that can move more freely.

Those who have already turned their backs on Shatila include its military leader, the head of the "popular committee" that runs the camp, and 20 of Dr. Giannou's medical team. At this rate, he says, there will soon be no reason for him to stay — Shatila, no longer under attack, will have bled to death.

The ramp of the camp's leadership is doing what it can to stop the haemorrhage, to tempt deserters back — back to a life which is composed, almost entirely, of sitting, eating, and for an increasing number, of gambling and smoking hashish.

A clubhouse is currently being patched together; linked to the hospital generator, and will provide television, video, table tennis and chess. Bricks from destroyed buildings are being gathered and stacked in "shell holes." A nurse with a hypodermic lurks in an open hallway and administrators typhoid fever shots to everyone who passes. Kitchen sets, blankets and mattresses are being distributed free of charge.

The handful clinging to this wreckage is doing its best to make the place liveable. Over a barricade and down by a shell-hole where water has collected, a young man has cultivated a few green plants. All along what once was the main road, men shaded by half-collapsed ceilings sit on mattresses and, with nothing else to do, invite passers-by to drink coffee.

There are no schools, no shops, no amusements, no greenery. And there are, without a doubt, more rats now than refugees — The Guardian.

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Spanish animal lovers wage uphill war on bullfighting

By Francois Raitberger
Reuters

MADRID — A small but fervent band of Spanish animal lovers has declared war on bullfighting, infuriating fans of the spectacle by branding it a national shame. "We have taken a lot of abuse. But many people are on our side and tell us: It was high time," Consuelo Polo, head of the Association for the Defence of Animal Rights (ADDA), told Reuters.

Seeking foreign support, ADDA has sent to all deputies in the European Parliament — members of which are elected by European Community countries — a document graphically depicting the suffering of a bull in the ring and calling its will to fight a myth.

"In reality, the bull galloping into the ring is a terrified animal desperately looking for the exit," it said.

At home, ADDA and other small animal rights groups are confronting powerful lobbies. Bullfighting is the second most popular public entertainment af-

ter soccer in Spain. It arouses passion, draws millions of spectators and provides a livelihood for thousands of people from toreros to breeders.

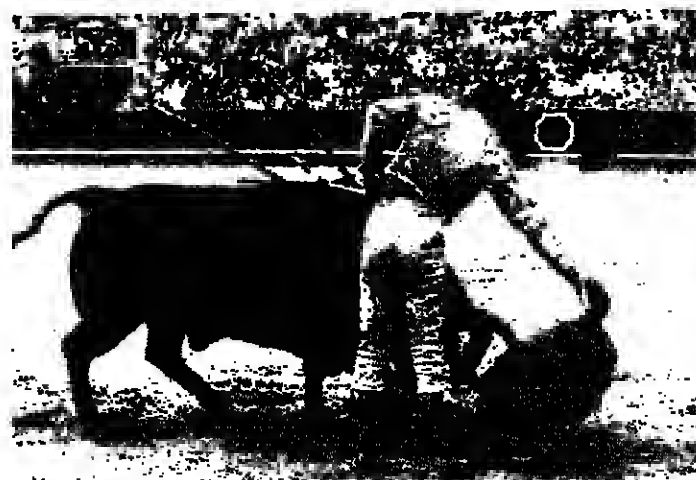
Polo was among a dozen protesters who chained themselves to the gates of Madrid's bullring recently to try to keep them shut to the Saturday afternoon crowd.

Mocking arguments that bullfighting, a centuries-old show, is deeply ingrained in Spanish culture, they chanted it was "torture, neither art nor culture."

Insults flew and bullfighting fans closed in threateningly. A frightened protester broke down in tears before police stepped in to prevent scuffles and cut off the chains.

Some 20 million people, including King Juan Carlos, "go to the bulls" every year in this country of 38 million. Fans say numbers are growing, cutting across age groups and political opinions. But others caution that figures are deceptive.

"Bear in mind that lots of people attend many fights on season tickets and appear as



many times in statistics," said Carlos Briones, in charge of bullfight statistics at the interior ministry.

"Bullfighting is not booming, far from it. And youths faced with a wide range of modern entertainment tend to turn away from it," he said.

He said that while seats were

sold out for major festivals in big cities like Madrid, Seville and Valencia, rings often remained half empty for minor fights.

Surveys on the popularity of bullfighting show surprisingly divided opinions on what is widely seen abroad as a symbol of Spain. According to the newspaper Ya, 50 per cent of Spaniards have

no interest in bullfighting. Only 18 per cent express keen interest, and most of them are over 40 years old.

ADDA complained that its views got little publicity in Spanish media, while bullfights were reported at length and often broadcast live on television.

"It is the law of silence," they wrote to the European Parliament where some British deputies tabled a proposal to ban bullfights in France and Spain.

Yet, ADDA is acquiring a higher profile and Polo last month aired the group's views in a television debate.

The group wants to create bullfight-free areas in regions, like northern Asturias, where bullfighting lacks deep roots. It calls for strict enforcement of a ban on the admission in rings of youths under 14 and is studying possible psychological damage to children from televised bullfights.

Fans and professionals of the bullfight have reacted with scepticism or outright hostility to pressure from abroad.

"This is our problem, and no

foreigner is going to fix it," Briones said. American Bill Lyon, a respected bullfight critic, believed foreign interference would hurt Spanish pride and be counterproductive for bullfight opponents.

The powerful lobby of breeders, who sell some 14,000 bulls a year, said banning bullfights would be an attack on Spanish culture, cause the short-term extinction of the combat bull and the loss of many jobs.

An assembly of anti-bullfight campaigners gathered only 70 people near Madrid, and most experts dismiss the movement as insignificant. "It has no future," Briones said.

But campaigners are decided to soldier on against all odds, and despite threats.

The Alternative for Animal Liberation, which advocates the outright abolition of bullfights, last year received a mailed parcel containing two dead birds and an anonymous letter which said: "We shall kill more hostages unless your group dissolves."

Randa Habib's

Leading the way

A large hotel in Jordan, a leading tourist agency, and two foreign airlines have started a major tourism-promotion programme. Their aim is to put Jordan back on the map of the world's travel market and also to present the country as an attractive conference centre.

Bearing in mind the importance of the tourism industry in today's world, such a project is a highly positive step towards the revitalisation of our stagnant tourism industry. The group is planning to exploit Jordan's untapped resources. They intend to transform each tourist's vacation to Jordan into a "unique" one by exploiting the different excitements that this country, with its history, its desert and all its archaeological sites, can offer.

I was stunned, however, by the absence of both the Ministry of Tourism and our national airline from such an ambitious drive. One would imagine that such a programme, aiming at promoting Jordan and shedding light on its touristic resources, would involve those two leading bodies. The Ministry of Tourism should be the one to encourage initiatives such as this one taken by the private sector. The ministry should encourage such "unconventional" ideas and give the initiators all the help that the ministry, with its long experience in the field of tourism, can offer.

Our tourism should not only mean a visit to Petra, Jerash or the Dead Sea. It is time that Ajlun, Wadi Mujib, Kerak, Wadi Rum, the east desert, and many other places take their place in our touristic maps. Tourists, specially those who are regular travellers, are looking for something different, and Jordan is most certainly a different place. It is high time that our tourism industry gets out of its inertia and becomes a daring and aggressive one in order to be able to compete in the world market.

Crisis grows among U.S. controllers

By Laura Parker

OKLAHOMA CITY — The Air Traffic Control Academy, where the country's air traffic controllers are trained, occupies a corner of a sprawling complex on the Oklahoma range, far from the din of Washington's congressional hearing rooms.

Since 1981, when 11,400 of the country's air traffic controllers were fired by President Ronald Reagan for striking illegally, the Federal Aviation Administration has been screening about 3,000 new controllers at the academy every year.

The academy is only the first hurdle in an education that takes three years to complete. This spring's "graduates" won't be fully trained until 1990. The trouble is, they are needed today.

The air traffic control system, born in 1936, is still struggling to recover from the strike.

The showdown in 1981 could not have come at a worse time. The airlines, newly deregulated three years earlier, were just beginning to expand. Now, six years after the strike, there are fewer controllers with less experience handling more traffic. Last year, controllers handled 6.4 million flights — a million more than in 1980, the year before the strike.

"There is a tendency for the FAA to want people to think they have rebuilt the system," said Jim Burnett, chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board. "It is not rebuilt yet."

Now with flight delays up 25

per cent over 1985, and controllers still working overtime, the signs of stress are in full bloom.

Last month the National Transportation Safety Board — an independent federal agency that acts as a safety watchdog over the transportation industry — warned that the air traffic control system was being stretched too thin. The five-member board said that the safety is compromised to such a degree that FAA should reduce the number of commercial flights in overcrowded airports during the peak summer travel season.

As evidence, the board cited a rise in errors made by controllers and the number of reports of near collisions, both on the ground and on runways. Mr. Burnett said that controllers, in some cases, are being asked to direct more airplanes than they can handle.

"The FAA is trying to run the system up to the red line," Mr. Burnett told a Senate hearing in late May. "We don't need to play a game of chicken. We need to run the system on cold instead of hot. We need to build in a margin of safety."

The FAA rejected the safety board's recommendations, and with them, the notion that the safety of the air travel is somehow eroding.

The FAA chief, Donald D. Engen, contends that airline travel today is safer than at any time in the history of aviation. The FAA further argues that it already limits the number of

flights taking off and landing at crowded airports — a practice that accounts for the bulk of the flight delays.

"We will not allow the situation to become critical," said Mr. Engen.

Against that backdrop, the debate between Congress and the FAA over the number of controllers needed rages on. Lately, it has become so convoluted that it is difficult to determine which set of statistics most resembles the reality in the field.

Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Hanford Dole says the ever-increasing number is evidence that the rebuilding of the system is "practically complete."

But Representative Norman Y. Mineta, the California Democrat who chairs the House Public Works aviation subcommittee, complains that the number of fully-trained controllers has actually gone down because retirements are out-pacing the training of new recruits. And he says the FAA is inflating its numbers by including the clerks in its count.

In 1981, at the time of the strike, there were 16,500 air traffic controllers around the country. Today, there are about 15,100, including about 2,474 trainees and 1,460 air traffic clerks, who do clerical work and do not control airplanes.

To add to the dilemma, senior controllers are retiring at a rate of about 500 a year, and at the air control facilities near Washing-

ton, Boston, New York, Chicago and Los Angeles, a third to half of the senior staff is eligible for retirement this year.

"It's the experience level we're worried about," said Vic DePaula, a supervisor at the Washington Air Traffic Route Control Centre. "We're heading into thunderstorm season."

To further complicate the problem, training lags in some centres because controllers who are supposed to be teaching the new trainees are too busy directing airplanes.

On June 3, Mrs. Dole announced plans to hire 955 new controllers in 1988, and the Senate Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee has called for hiring 1,000 more controllers next year.

Mr. Burnett says that the sudden hiring of more controllers would not solve the immediate crisis this summer because the training takes too long.

He acknowledges that controller errors are usually made by experienced controllers, and that each radar scope is manned, and says the safety board is trying to portray a larger picture — one of a system that is overtaxed because certain areas around crowded airports become oversaturated with more airplanes than an individual controller can handle.

Because training takes so long, there has been a move to rehire the fired controllers, on the theory that they can be more



Students at the air traffic school in Oklahoma City learn spatial reasoning.

quickly retrained. Legislation to rehire the controllers was introduced last year but failed.

Not only is the administration opposed, but the FAA argues that such a move would only exacerbate morale problems among the controllers who feel they made fundamental choice when they walked across the picket lines and went back to work in 1981. Controllers themselves hold mixed views. In a survey a year ago, a majority said they didn't want the fired control-

lers back.

Mr. Burnett opposed rehiring the controllers because he says the FAA may be tempted to cut short the retraining.

The drive has begun again this year, and this time, with a Democratic-controlled Congress and a perception — that airline travel is disintegrating into chaos, the proposal will figure as a major bargaining tool in any debate over controller hiring — International Herald Tribune.

Marilyn Monroe memorabilia takes over Manhattan storefront

By Mary Powers
Reuters

NEW YORK — Ever since Bernard Wolinsky, an impressionable 13-year-old, gazed raptly at Marilyn Monroe in the film "Niagara" the blonde sex symbol has been someone special in his life.

So special, in fact that for the seventh year running he is holding a sale in Monroe's honour, cramming his Manhattan storefront with everything from posters to puzzles to paper weights with the actress's likeness.

Wolinsky claims that his collection of "monroeabilia" — accumulated over the past 25 years — is the largest ever put up for public sale.

"I get the stuff from everywhere, through mail order houses, from people who bring things into the store," Wolinsky told Reuters. "I go to flea markets, rummage sales, wherever I think I might find things pertaining to Marilyn."

"But Marilyn is not easy to find. She's very sought after," he added.

When Marilyn died in 1962, apparently of a drug overdose, Wolinsky began in earnest to collect items and has put it all up for sale, photographing much of it beforehand.

The window of his 20th century antiques and gallery resembles an altar to the late film star, adorned with rare books and magazines, calendars, clocks and stand-ups of perhaps the most easily recognisable image of Monroe, captured by dozens of photographers in New York during the filming of "The Seven-Year-Itch": Monroe smiling enigmatically as her skirt

is blown upwards by a passing subway train.

Inside, a thermometer embossed with Monroe's image and the title of one of her best-known movies, "Some Like It Hot", hangs on the wall alongside posters of the actress.

Tapes of rare interviews, records, post cards, T-shirts, playing cards, buttons, mugs, beach blankets and dolls dressed in her various screen role outfits fill the shelves of the store on ninth avenue in Manhattan's Chelsea neighbourhood.

Wolinsky has compiled a 30-page catalogue containing all of the "monroeabilia" he has for sale and has made a special cassette containing all of the songs the film star ever recorded.

One of the most popular items is the 1954 calendar for which Monroe posed nude against a red velvet backdrop. Wolinsky noted the actress received only \$50 for the job, which she needed to make a car payment.

The most unusual items of "monroeabilia" Wolinsky has encountered in his years of collecting include a Marilyn Monroe snow shaker made in West Germany, and a nude rubber doll of Marilyn with arms that move.

He has also sold a brass key engraved "20th Century Fox, dressing room 5, Marilyn Monroe."

His customers come from as far away as London and run the entire gamut, including a 17-year-old from Arizona who looks strikingly like Monroe.

"Certainly there are a lot of men, young women and children who find her very endearing," he said. "Marilyn had a certain aura. Children seem to sense she would have been nice to them."



The last known picture taken of Marilyn Monroe (file photo)

For Wolinsky, "Niagara" was the start of his obsession. "When I saw her rear end wiggling with the thunder of the Niagara falls behind, I became an instant fan."

Wolinsky said his fascination with Marilyn lies in her childlike vulnerability and innocence combined with her overt sexuality.

"There was a sweetness about her that made you want to protect her, while she was so voluptuous

you wanted to go to bed with her. She was such an exciting woman," Wolinsky said.

Seven years ago, he started a sale which runs from the actress's birthday on June 1 until August 5, the day she died. This year will mark the 25th anniversary of her death.

"On that day I'll light a candle and put it in the store window," Wolinsky said.

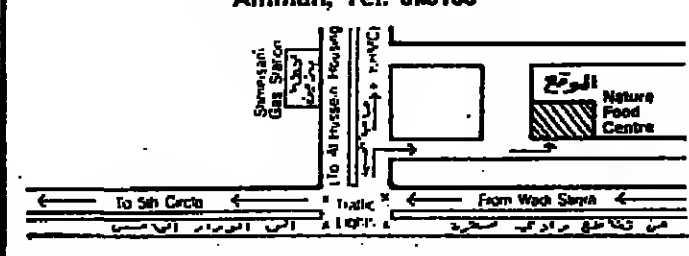
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Perez-Roldan clinches Athens Grand Prix title

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Driving a blistering forehand, 17-year-old Guillermo Perez-Roldan of Argentina defeated West German Tore Meinecke 5-2, 6-3 on the red-clay centre court of the Athens Tennis Club Sunday to clinch his second Grand Prix title this year.

The fourth-seeded Argentinian, ranked 56th in the world, served three aces in the first set and baffled Meinecke with thundering side-line passes and aggressive net play in cool, windy conditions.

The unseeded West German broke Perez-Roldan's serve in the third game. But the Argentinian, who has only dropped one set in the week-long contest, broke back twice and wrapped up the first set with an unstoppable cross-court volley.

Meinecke, ranked 141st in the world and looking nervous in his

first Grand Prix final, broke serve three times but failed to hold his own service in the second set.

Perez-Roldan won the match with an ace into the corner as the 20-year-old West German looked on.

"I knew Meinecke was nervous and that was my advantage," the Argentinian said. "It was windy playing but I managed to keep my concentration."

The Argentinian won the \$20,000 first prize to bring his year's earnings to \$67,771. Meinecke took \$10,000 to total

\$59,771 for this year.

"I felt a little tired. He played a much better game," the West German said.

But Meinecke then teamed up with 23-year-old West German Ricki Osterthun to down Tom Nijssen of The Netherlands and Czechoslovak Jaro Navratil 6-2, 3-6, 6-2 in the doubles final.

The West Germans breezed through the first set with Meinecke serving two aces and Osterthun another three. Navratil and Nijssen fought back, taking three straight games at the

start of the second set and holding on as Meinecke looked increasingly fatigued at the baseline.

But in the final set, Osterthun's fierce serve and Meinecke's sharp cross-court volleys overpowered the opposition. At match-point Nijssen double-faulted to give the West Germans their first Grand Prix doubles title.

"We played very consistently, we were a great team and they couldn't return our service," Osterthun, ranked 80th in the world, said.

New Zealander wins warm up for Detroit race

DETROIT (AP) — Paul Radisich of New Zealand raced off to an easy victory Sunday in the Detroit round of the Valvoline Super Vee series, the fifth different winner in as many races this season.

Radisich, driving a Volkswagen-powered Ralt RT-5, beat second-place Dennis Vitolo to the finish line by 1.706 seconds.

The 24-lap, 60-mile (96-kilometre) event on the 2.5 mile (4-km), 20-turn street course was run as a support race for the

Detroit Grand Prix later Sunday.

Scott Atchison, the series point leader and defending race champion, was third, followed by Dave Kudrave and Roberto Groff.

Atchison started from the pole, with Radisich alongside, but the New Zealander quickly grabbed the lead.

Radisich, who earned \$6,500, averaged 69.610 mph (112 kph).

There were several accidents and spins, but only one full-course caution period and no injuries.

Swiss driver holds overall lead in Tour de Suisse

TAESCH, Switzerland (AP) — Italy's Marco Giovannetti posted his first victory on the pro circuit in the sixth stage of the Tour de Suisse road cycling race Sunday, a 226-kilometre (140-mile) test through western Switzerland.

Guido Winterberg of Switzerland retained the overall lead in the competition's longest stage, coming in with the field nearly two minutes behind Giovannetti's winning time of six hours, 52 minutes, 58 seconds.

Fabio Parra of Colombia finished second with a 20-second lag, outdistanced by Giovannetti in a two-man sprint for the finish line. Sweden's Jonas Tegstrom took third place, 1:19 minutes behind. About half the leg was raced through rain.

Parra, winner of a Tour de France stage two years ago, is the strongest racer on the Colombian team making its debut in the Swiss Tour this year. He moved up to an overall 17th place Sunday from 38th.

Four cyclists, including Tegstrom, carved out an 11-minute lead at one point. They were still ahead by one minute when Giovannetti and Parra charged out of the main pack five kilometres (three miles) from the finish for their successful attack.

1938 round-the-world flight record broken

PARIS (AP) — Champagne flowed and crowds cheered Sunday as four aviators finished a round-the-world voyage in a 1930s-vintage airplane — beating Howard Hughes' 1938 time by 2½ hours.

Touchdown was at 10 a.m. (0800 GMT) under cloudy skies north of Paris at Le Bourget airport, from which the crew had set off Wednesday afternoon. Their arrival came on the final day of the Paris Air Show, which began June 11.

"We did it, it's over, and I'm a happy man," said Arthur Powell, 34, of Vancouver, Canada, who did most of the restoration work on the two-engine aircraft.

He said except for a few minor glitches — a heater that failed, spark plugs that needed changing — the Lockheed 18 Lodestar worked perfectly during the 88-hour, 48-minute flight.

The flyers, clad in dark-green flight suits, perched on a wing and waved as the plane was towed to its display area.

Then they doused each other with champagne, signed autographs and fielded questions.

"I've forgotten the difficult moments," said Patrick Fourtq, the captain, who spent two years searching for an airplane of the same model as Hughes' for the trip.

He finally found the plane in Miami, where it was being used to transport chickens.

"I discovered a new world," said Henri Pescarolo, the co-pilot and navigator. "Finishing the flight was a great moment."

Fourtq and Pescarolo, along with fellow crew member Hubert Auriol, have reputations as daredevils in the air and on the ground.

Auriol is a motorbike rider and race-car driver who won the Paris-Dakar Rally in 1981 and 1983. This year he broke both legs in a crash, but finished the leg of the race before being rushed to the hospital.

Pescarolo, a four-time Le Mans winner, got a pilot's license at 17, before he could drive. He holds a world record for a Transatlantic crossing in a single-engine aircraft.

Fourtq, an Air France captain, won the French Microlight Championship in 1984.

The four had hoped to retrace Hughes' celebrated flight, which included three stops in the Soviet

Union. But after a West German pilot's landing last month in Red Square, the Soviets were in no mood for more aviation stunts, and permission was denied.

The four chose a new route that covered the same distance as the Hughes flight — 24,000 kilometres — with stops in Spitzberg, Norway; Fairbanks, Alaska; Vancouver, Los Angeles; Miami and New York.

Their plane, christened the "Spirit of J-and-B" for the London-based Scotch whisky company that sponsored the venture, has a cruising speed of 360 kilometres an hour (225 mph).

It has a 20-metre wingspan and a length of 14 metres, and flies at a maximum altitude of about 8,000 metres.

Hughes' 1938 flight was inspired by a round-the-world record set by aviator Wiley Post in 1931.

Flying with a crew of four crack aviators, Hughes broke Post's record with a time of 91 hours and 17 minutes.

Seven million people turned out for a ticker-tape parade in New York for Hughes and his crew after their safe arrival.

Gornik Zabrze wins Polish soccer title

WARSAW (R) — Gornik Zabrze won the Polish League Soccer title for the third successive year on Sunday despite being beaten 2-1 at home by bottom club Motor Lublin. Pogon Szczecin finished second after winning 1-0 at Widzew Lodz, thanks to a goal by leading striker Marek Lesinak, who finished the season as Poland's top scorer with 24 goals. For the first time, wins by three clear goals were awarded three points this season. Gornik had seven such wins and Katowice, who finished third, had six.

Sukova exposes Navratilova, Evert weak spot

EASTBOURNE, England (AP) — Helena Sukova did more than just win the \$20,000 Pilkington Glass Women's Grasscourt Tennis title.

By beating Chris Evert and then Martina Navratilova, the 22-year-old Czechoslovak exposed a new common weakness shared by the two players who have dominated women's tennis for a decade.

Both Navratilova, who won the pre-Wimbledon championship the previous five times, and Evert, who had lost the ability to serve, had lost the ability to serve.

Evert, seeded number 2, squandered a 5-2 third set lead in her semifinal against Sukova, before losing 6-4, 4-6, 8-6, while, in Saturday's final, Navratilova led the tall Czechoslovak 5-0 in the

first set before going down 7-6, 6-3.

Navratilova, ranked number 1 to Evert's number 3 lost more than her countrywoman.

Sukova's victory on Saturday ended Navratilova's streak of 69 matches on English grass, dating back to a Wimbledon semifinal defeat by another Czechoslovak, Hana Mandlikova, in 1981.

Navratilova also lost the psychological boost of knowing that whenever she has won the Eastbourne Tournament, she has always carried off the Wimbledon title two weeks later.

Of more significance, however, the result meant that, going into Wimbledon, she had failed to pick up a title for the previous seven months.

"There's nothing wrong with me technically," Navratilova said. "I was rolling and I just let it go away."

"There have been a lot of sets and matches recently where I have been in a position to win, but not punched it through."

Evert said she hoped the upset would be a "kick in the pants" before Wimbledon, which starts Monday.

"I'm pretty angry with myself," she said.

"I have relied so much on my mental abilities and I really let the match slip for no reason at all. I'm not worried about my game so much as finishing off matches. I really need to get that intensity back," Evert said.

Coles wins golf seniors title

COVENTRY, England (AP) — Neil Coles made the most of his seven-stroke overnight lead to score a comfortable victory in the Trusthouse Forte PGA seniors Golf Championship Sunday.

The challenge of Australian Peter Thomson, with four successive birdies, came too late to halt the march of 52-year-old Coles towards his third successive title.

His final round of 71 gave him a 13-under-par 206 total, won him the £5,000 (\$7,500) first prize and earned him some measure of revenge for defeat by the Melbourne Ace 21 years ago.

In 1966, Coles was going for his third successive PGA match-play championship when Thomson beat him in the final.

Thomson, 57, paid high tribute to the skill of Coles, saying: "He plays almost as well as he did years ago. The fact that he has endured indicates his real greatness and it is odd that he did not win an (British) Open along the way."

Thomson might have got closer had he been able to hole more putts. But he said: "Some of the holes were about a quarter of an inch smaller than usual."

"After all the rain we have had the turf is springing out above the metal cups. That makes it very difficult to get ball into the hole."

Thomson had to move early to make any dent in Coles' big overnight advantage. But he failed from only four feet for an eagle three on the first green

Becker returns to his court, Lendl to place of anguish

LONDON (R) — Boris Becker returns to "my court" Monday to begin his quest for a third Wimbledon men's tennis title in successive years.

For his rival Ivan Lendl, the all England Club which stages the 101st Wimbledon is a place of anguish, of largely unfulfilled ambition.

"I always feel very good out there," Becker, 19, said after beating Lendl in straight sets in last year's final on the famous centre court. "I feel at home on that court. It seems like my court."

Lendl would probably feel bet-

ter about the court if the immaculate, close-cropped grass were dug up and replaced by the same red shale on which two weeks ago he won the French Open, his fifth Grand Slam title.

It seemed Lendl was destined for a long and bumpy association with Wimbledon when he won the junior title in 1978 for the loss of only two sets.

But five years passed before he broke through at senior level, reaching the 1983 semifinals, and when he at last made it to the final for the first time 12 months ago, Becker sent him packing with all the severity of a landowner banishing a small intruder from his apple orchard.

Lendl is a majestic striker of the ball from the back of the court but retains a clay-court player's misgivings about venturing into the forecourt, a vital zone in the grass-court game.

For Becker, though, "no go" areas do not exist at Wimbledon. Just as the statuesque ground stroke is Lendl's trademark, Becker's is the tumbling volley at the net. The young West German loves to attack from the front of the court, a boldness Wimbledon

rewards.

Becker's Wimbledon record of only one defeat when he slipped and twisted an ankle against American Bill Scanlon in 1984 has earned him the number one seeding this year ahead of Lendl, a reversal of their world rankings.

Otherwise the seedings reflect the rankings so that the predicted quarter-final lineup is Becker vs. Jimmy Connors, Mats Wilander vs. Yannick Noah, Miloslav Meicir vs. Stefan Edberg and Andre Gomez vs. Lendl.

Had they not been based on the world rankings but on previous grass-court form, the top eight seedings might have looked very different with Tim Mayotte and Pat Cash, seeded 10th and 11th, almost certainly included and perhaps also unseeded Yugoslav Slobodan Zivonjovic, big "Bobo" who lost to Lendl in five sets in the 1986 semifinals.

Sweden have two of the top eight seeds this time. Wilander and Edberg, compared with four a year ago and the likelihood is that the Wimbledon-winning formula uncovered by Bjorn Borg between 1976 and 1980 will again elude his compatriots.

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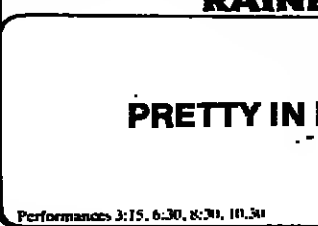
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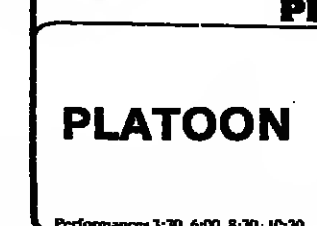
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SECRET ADMIRER

Performances 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30

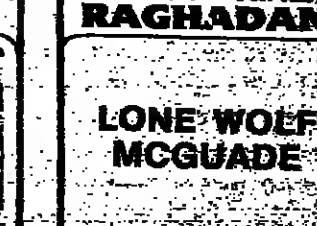
Cinema **PLAZA** Tel: 675571



PLATOON

Performances 3:30, 6:00, 8:30, 10:30

Cinema **RAGHADAN** Tel: 622198



LONE WOLF MCQUADE

Performances 7:30, 9:15, 10:30

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Amnesty accuses Sri Lanka of murder, torture of Tamils

LONDON (R) — Amnesty International accused the Sri Lankan security forces of inflicting horrific torture, sometimes to the point of death, on Tamils suspected of anti-government activities.

The London-based human-rights organisation said it had documented more than 500 case histories of Tamils who had disappeared after being arrested by the security forces in the past two and a half years.

It believed many of them had been murdered.

"Government security forces have routinely resorted to torture during interrogation. There have also been consistent reports of past extra-judicial killings of prisoners by security forces," Amnesty said.

The report said much of the torture and killing was done by the Sri Lankan Special Task Force (STF), a commando unit under the direction of the secretary of the Ministry of Defence.

This group systematically tortured prisoners to extract information about the activities of

armed Tamil groups and their members, it said.

Tamil guerrillas are fighting for autonomy over the north and east of the island.

The alleged methods of torture included hanging prisoners by the thumbs or upside down by the toes, beating them with clubs, burning them with hot iron rods and applying chilli powder to their wounds.

Female prisoners had complained of being raped and subjected to sexual torture.

"We have strong reason to believe that many of the 'disappeared' have been tortured, some dying as a result and that others have been shot after arrest, their bodies being disposed of in secret," the report said.

Sri Lankan National Security

Minister Lalith Athulathmudali, who visited London last week, denied the charges. He said they were based on inadequate and inaccurate evidence.

He said many of the "so-called disappeared" had taken new identities when joining the Tamil guerrilla movement. Others had gone abroad or had "died at sea."

The report included several graphic accounts by victims of torture and photographs showing the wounds of victims.

Amnesty said Sunday's report, listing 216 case histories of Tamils who had disappeared after arrest, followed another report last September that listed 272 disappearances.

The Sri Lankan government had not responded in detail to the earlier charges and Amnesty had since been able to discover what had happened to only four of the 272 people listed.

Two were later found in prison, one was released and one was certified shot after arrest by security forces. The fate of the other 268 people was unknown.

Rogers prepares NATO handover to Galvin

BRUSSELS (R) — With guns blazing over planned nuclear missile cuts, outspoken U.S. Army General Bernard Rogers reluctantly steps down this week as NATO commander in Europe after a record eight years in office.

Gen. Rogers, 65, hands over next Friday to U.S. General John Galvin at a crucial time in East-West relations as the United States and the Soviet Union move towards a major agreement to slash missile arsenals in Europe.

Gen. Rogers' leaves as Supreme Allied Commander Europe (SACEUR) still bitterly critical of the superpower deal that would remove U.S. medium-range missiles from Western Europe.

In a parting swipe at the Reagan administration, Gen. Rogers was quoted last week as saying Washington's rush towards the deal with Moscow could weaken NATO's nuclear defences.

"Somebody ought to stand up out there and say to NATO, 'time out, dammit,'" he told the Washington Post.

The White House rejected his charge that it was rushing into a Euro-missile deal with Moscow and in Sydney, Australia the visiting U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz said Gen. Rogers' remark was "obviously ridiculous."

It seems unlikely that Gen. Galvin, 58, will initially follow the high-profile style of Gen. Rogers that gave political clout to the military post of SACEUR, diplomats say.

But, speaking to U.S. senators last month, he expressed sympathy with Gen. Rogers' view on the missile question.

Gen. Galvin, commander in chief of U.S. forces in Latin America, will assume command at a ceremony at his future headquarters in Mons, southern Belgium.

A "paper soldier" in peacetime, Gen. Galvin would command 4.5 million soldiers from Western Europe in the event of war.

Under the missile deal being negotiated, the United States would withdraw the cruise and Pershing-2 missiles it has deployed in Western Europe in exchange for Moscow withdrawing its SS-20s targeted on the West.

Western military experts have warned that reducing nuclear missiles without redressing a perceived conventional force imbalance with the East Bloc would damage Western defences.

Gen. Galvin, who speaks German and Spanish, has served nine out of the past 15 years in NATO posts in Western Europe.

Four people, including a gunman, killed in Punjab

NEW DELHI (Agencies) — A Sikh extremist and three other people, including a priest, were killed Sunday in continuing violence in India's northern state of Punjab, the Press Trust of India (PTI) reported.

In Jullundur district, militants shot from a Sikh temple at a police patrol. Police returned the fire, killing one of the extremists, PTI said.

Police also found the body of a Sikh priest but it was not clear whether he was caught in the crossfire or shot by militants.

In Amritsar, suspected Sikh extremists shot dead a woman Saturday night and police also discovered the body of a teenage girl.

Police said a curfew had been clamped on the town of Tarn Taran near Amritsar and they were conducting a house-to-house hunt for militants.

About 50 people have been arrested in Tarn Taran, where three people were killed on Friday.

At least 60 people have been killed this month in extremist-related violence in Punjab, where militants are demanding a separate Sikh homeland.

In a separate development, Gurkha militants, campaigning for autonomy in foothills of the Himalayas, bombed police posts, set fire to government buildings and damaged a road bridge Saturday, United News of India reported.

The agency said the violence occurred during a general strike called by the militants.

At least 12 government buildings, including four rest houses, were set on fire in Darjeeling district, home of 650,000 Gurkhas, in the east Indian state of West Bengal, UNI said.

Poland apologises for firing on W. German ship

BONN (R) — Poland has acknowledged that one of its warships accidentally fired on a West German navy vessel during a Warsaw Pact exercise in the Baltic on Monday and apologised to Bonn, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said.

He said the formal apology was delivered to the Foreign Ministry by Polish Charge d'Affaires Boleslaw Kniski.

The naval supply ship Neckar was hit by five artillery shells while observing the sea exercises in what Bonn said was the first such incident since World War II. Three crewmen were injured.

"The Polish Charge d'Affaires

expressed his government's regret at the Foreign Ministry this afternoon for the firing on the West German naval tender Neckar," the spokesman said.

He said Mr. Kniski also asked that Poland's sympathies be conveyed to the injured sailors.

The spokesman quoted Mr. Kniski as saying Poland had determined that the Neckar was hit as the result of an error and that there was no deliberate attempt to fire on the ship.

Bonn protested to Warsaw over the incident on Tuesday and the following day Defence Minister Manfred Woerner said an explanation was overdue.

Study shows nuclear war more devastating than thought

NEW YORK (AP) — A new study concludes a limited attack on the United States, involving only 1 per cent of the Soviet nuclear arsenal, could set off a collapse of the American economy that would last for decades, according to a published report.

The New York Times reported in its Sunday edition that federal officials said the study by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology was flawed and that recovery from even large nuclear attacks could take years, not decades.

The study claims that an attack aimed only at liquid fuels and their distribution points could cripple transportation, energy production and key industries and damage the economy so badly that most of the American population would die of starvation in months.

But the study also said the Soviet Union would be even more vulnerable than the United States.

The study, "nuclear crash,"

was based upon four years of computer simulations of nuclear attacks and their consequences. The computer instructions were modifications of a model originally developed for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

"The usual assumption is that the economy recovers," said Dr. Kosta Tsipis, senior author of the study. "But this programme shows it will not recover even 25 to 30 years after an attack."

Paul Krueger, assistant associate director for Mobilisation Resources, told the Times that while he had not seen the report he knew that the study's underlying set of computer instructions had been abandoned by the government in 1984 because they were deemed unrealistic.

Dr. Tsipis told the newspaper that the computer model had been dropped by the government because its results conflicted with the government's public positions. Krueger denied the assertion, the Times said.

U.S. conducts nuclear test in Nevada

LAS VEGAS, Nevada (AP) — A nuclear-weapons test was conducted successfully in a tunnel 1,030 feet beneath the surface of Rainer Mesa at the Nevada test site, the Department of Energy said.

The 9 a.m. (1500 GMT) blast Saturday, code-named Mission Ghost, was a weapons-effect test with a yield of less than 20 kilotons, said department spokesman Jim Boyer.

"We had no problems," he said.

It was the eighth nuclear test in Nevada announced this year and brought to 667 the number of announced nuclear tests at the site since the programme began there in 1951. Boyer said.

There were 13 announced

underground tests last year at the Nevada test site, 145 kilometres north west of Las Vegas. Not all tests are announced by the government, for security reasons.

The Soviet Union earlier Saturday conducted its ninth nuclear test in the four months since ending a 19-month unilateral moratorium, the official TASS news agency reported.

Contras claim killing 18 troops in downed MI-24

TEGUCIGALPA (Agencies) — U.S.-backed Nicaraguan rebels have said they shot down a Soviet-supplied helicopter gunship in central Nicaragua, killing all 18 people on board.

In Managua, the Defence Ministry Saturday announced the downing of the MI-24 helicopter as it supported Sandinista troops in combat Friday some 145 kilometres north east of Managua. It said three crew members had died.

A rebel official said that an MI-24 does not fly with a crew of only three, needing at least seven in a combat zone.

It was the first time Nicaragua publicly announced the loss of an MI-24, the Soviet Union's export model of a helicopter gunship used extensively by Soviet forces in Afghanistan.

A statement from the Nicaraguan Resistance, the main rebel organisation, said the helicopter was shot down by a missile in the central region of Zelaya.

The rebels, known as contras, have downed six or seven MI-24s, a rebel official said. In total, the contras claim they have shot down 13 Sandinista helicopters in recent months, while the Nicaraguan government admits to losing just three.

The MI-24, armed with rockets, cannon and machine guns, is also known as the "flying tank" because of its thick armour plating and Western military experts say it has been used to inflict heavy casualties on the contras.

Neither the contras nor the Nicaraguan Defence Ministry specified what type of missile was used to bring down the helicopter.

ter. The insurgents are known to possess ground-to-air heat-seeking missiles such as the "Red Eye."

Nicaragua has about 50 Soviet-supplied helicopters, including 12 of the MI-25 gunships.

Meanwhile about 1,000 people, demanding changes in Nicaragua's constitution, ended a two-day protest Saturday in Boaco that began after soldiers dumped a draftee's body on the doorstep of his wife's house.

The protest at the Red Cross office 90 kilometres north east of Managua began Friday with demands for an explanation of the soldier's death. After authorities said he was accidentally shot by another draftee, the protesters demanded that local draftees be kept closer to home.

The protesters, most of them women, peacefully left the Red Cross building at 4 a.m. (1000 GMT) after authorities assured them recruits from their area were not in any danger, Monsiñor Rafael Obregon, a priest in Boaco, told the Associated Press by telephone.

The dead recruit, 40-year-old Salvador Fernandez, was one of 400 men taken Wednesday from Boaco, a town of 15,000 people in a cattle-raising area of Nicaragua, where U.S.-backed contra rebels frequently attack in their quest to oust the leftist Sandinista government.

Service in the Sandinista army reserves is mandatory for all Nicaraguan men between 24 and 40. The reservists are required to take basic training and can then return home, ready to be called up in an emergency.

Soviets elect new local councils

MOSCOW (R) — Kremlin leader Mikhail Gorbachev and millions of Soviet voters went to the polls Sunday to elect new local government councils and district court judges in a ballot officially said to be more democratic than in the past.

For the first time in some electoral districts in the country, voters were able to choose from more than one candidate for a seat on their local council.

In other districts, voters were able to discuss a range of names put forward by local enterprises, farms and factories before choosing the single candidate running Sunday.

"Judging from the composition of the candidates, the people are giving a vote of confidence to the current process of restructuring the national economy and the process of expanding democracy and openness in the country," Moscow Radio said.

Mr. Gorbachev and his wife Raisa cast their ballots in a central Moscow district, emerging from the polling station with a bouquet of red carnations and chatting briefly with onlookers in the street.

The voting, virtually compulsory for all Soviet citizens over the age of 18, began in Moscow at 6 a.m. (0200 GMT) and continues until 10 p.m. (1800 GMT). Similar polling hours were being observed throughout the country.

More than two million candidates are running for seats on some 50,000 district, city and rural councils, which handle day-to-day local government business such as housing, public transport and medical care.

Voters aged 25 or older are also choosing new judges to sit on district "people's courts", the ground-floor level of the Soviet judicial system.

The party newspaper Pravda, without specifying how many districts were offering multi-candidate slates, Sunday said the experiment marked a broadening of democracy in the country.

Mozambique makes changes in armed forces

MAPUTO, Mozambique (AP) — President Joaquim Chissano announced far-reaching changes in top military posts Saturday, replacing the man who had headed the armed forces since independence in 1975, the Mozambique News Agency AIM reported.

No new job was announced for Col.-Gen. Sebastiao Mabote, who also lost his post as deputy defence minister to the new armed forces chief, Lt.-Gen. Antonio Hama Thai, formerly air force commander.

Gen. Mabote is a member of the Frelimo Party political bureau that has governed Marxist Mozambique since it won independence from Portugal.

Mr. Chissano named new commanders of the three armed ser-

vices, changed the military command in nine of the country's 10 provinces and shuffled directorships in charge of manpower, telecommunications, logistics, transport and mobilisation.

He said the new officers had the duty of "studying new forms of leadership, and of transmission of orders so that the armed forces may become more dynamic and operational."

Since 1976, the government has been fighting a guerrilla war against the Mozambique National Resistance (MNR), which was originally funded and supported by South Africa.

Mr. Chissano's government says that support has continued, despite the 1983 Nkomati Accord in which South Africa and

Mozambique pledged not to aid guerrillas in each other's territory. South Africa denies it has violated the accord.

The war, drought and the MNR's tactics of attacking roads, bridges, schools, clinics and other infrastructure have hampered development in the country and caused serious famine in some areas.

Gen. Hama Thai had served in the past as governor of Tete province, military commander in Inhambane province and chairman of the Maputo City Council.

Replacing him as commander of the air force and anti-aircraft defences is Col. Joao Honwana. He was formerly air force chief of staff and is the brother of Minister of Culture Luis Bernardo Honwana.

Venezuela gears up fight against drug-linked rebels

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) — The Venezuelan military is gearing up for a major drive against Colombian drug-linked guerrillas in an attempt to halt the spread of drug plantations in this country.

Two National Guard Infantry battalions, totalling 750-800 men, were sent to the Sierra De Perija region near the border with Colombia after nine guerrillas in a 23-man patrol were killed by Colombian guerrillas in an ambush last Saturday, military sources told the Associated Press.

The guardsmen had been sent to the area to destroy fields of coca, the plant from which cocaine is extracted. National Guard General Alfredo Sandoval Hernandez vowed this week that his men would "fight ceaselessly" against the plantations.

But in a press conference earlier this year, the general admitted that he didn't have the resources to control the flow of cocaine through Venezuela, let alone eliminate the plantations.

Venezuela has been negotiating to buy helicopters, possibly

from the United States or France, for transporting troops and spraying herbicides, according to diplomatic sources.

The Venezuelan military has also asked Colombia to beef up patrols on its side of the border to catch the guerrillas when they escape across the frontier.

Greater joint efforts are indispensable, the sources say, because the fields in Venezuela are being planted under supervision of Colombian drug traffickers and protected by Colombian guerrillas.

"We must intensify our efforts to free our nation from this (drug) scourge ... but we require the collaboration of our neighbouring country so that we can act together against something which is a challenge to both our nations' security," Venezuelan President Jaime Lusinchi said in a speech Wednesday to the military.

"We've been talking with the Colombian authorities for over two years now about this. We want Colombian troops on the

border to stop (the guerrillas) at the border," said one ranking military officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Venezuela is already known to be a major transshipment point for cocaine and marijuana, mainly from Colombia, destined for the United States and Europe.

But the new stage of military alert, and national alarm, has arisen as more and bigger coca fields are discovered in the uninhabited parts of the nation close to its 1,200-mile border with Colombia.

Venezuela's first plantation of coca was found in March 1985 in the Sierra de Perija about four miles from the Colombian border.

Military officials considered the 15-acre field experimental, although by August another 1,800 acres of marijuana with a few coca plants mixed in were discovered in the same region.

Last week's attack occurred as National Guardsmen were clearing a 500-acre plantation of mari-

juana and coca that they had uncovered two weeks before just eight miles from the Colombian border.

"These are Colombian operations, with the Colombians organising the local peasants (to grow the coca)," said the ranking military source.

The fields are tiny when compared with the 25,000-acre coca plantation near Colombia's border with Ecuador where 32 Colombian soldiers were killed Wednesday by guerrillas as the soldiers attempted to clear the site.

The same guerrilla group, the Communist Colombian Revolutionary Armed Forces, or FARC, was blamed by the Venezuelan and Colombian governments for the attacks on both sides of the border.

The location of the drug plantation makes it almost impossible to estimate reliably how much land may already be under drug cultivation, military officials say.

COLUMNS 7 & 8

Police, vagabonds clash at Stonehenge

AMESBURY, England (AP) — Scuffles broke out at dawn Sunday between a police and vagabonds who assemble each year at Stonehenge, the 4,000-year-old stone monument, on midsummer's day. Police said about 30 people were arrested for breach of the peace after trying to break down a fence surrounding the archaeological site. The arrests were made as 60 white-robed, modern-day Druid sun worshippers prepared to celebrate the summer solstice, the longest day of the year, with a ritual sunrise ceremony at Stonehenge. After the Druids completed their ceremony with the blowing of rams' horn trumpets, several hundred vagabonds were allowed into the monument to form a huge circle around the ancient stones. As a drum beat, leader Sid Rawle bent to kiss one of the stones and then silently, the group circled the monument. Stonehenge, the double circle of gigantic standing stones set in Salisbury Plain about 130 kilometres south west of London, is thought to have been a centre for pre-Christian worship and astronomical worship since the sun rises over a certain stone. Police said 350 of the vagabonds, sometimes referred to as "hippies" in Britain because of their 1960s lifestyle, were allowed to gather under escort outside the perimeter fence to watch the Druid ceremony. The sun rose at 4:57 a.m. (0357 GMT). A spokesman for English Heritage, which manages the site, said they were pleased with the way things had gone and that the Druids had been allowed to hold their ceremony.

Gamblers use corpses to beat the law

MANILA (R) — Gamblers in a Manila suburb are using corpses to beat a Philippine law that bans gambling outside authorised places, a Manila newspaper has reported. Taking advantage of the Filipino custom of playing cards beside the coffin while the body lies in mourning, gambling operators in Mandabuhay district borrow corpses for a fee from hospitals and use them as "props" in mock wakes, the tabloid People's Journal said. Sometimes, it said, the "mourners" rent their corpses from funeral parlours. The fee for a borrowed corpse is about 500 pesos (\$25), the newspaper said. Gambling in the Philippines is officially allowed only in licensed establishments such as casinos and at horse races, cockfights and Jai Alai games. Authorities turn a blind eye to gambling during household wakes out of respect for the dead.

Madonna concert cancelled in Tokyo

TOKYO (AP) — Hundreds of enraged fans charged police after rain and strong winds forced the cancellation of a concert by rock star Madonna. More than 40,000 ticket-holders were turned away from Korakuen Baseball Stadium, where the outdoor concert was scheduled to be held. Junichi Yokota, 17, said he came to Tokyo from Nagoya, 269 kilometres to the west, just for the concert. "I had to come twice, once to buy the tickets and once for this," he said. "I had to spend about 50,000 yen (\$352). There's no way I can come back for a refund next week. I'm going to charge the organisers for all my expenses." Crowds of teenagers surged against ropes held by police. Young girls, many of them in tears, strained at the barriers while some youths scuffled with security guards. There were no reported injuries and nobody was arrested, said Yoshiharu Michimoto, deputy chief of Tomisaka Police Station. "Because of strong winds, the stage sets could not be set up," said Naoko Satsune of Warner Records, the label on which Madonna's albums are released. "It's really too bad," because some people came here all the way from Hokkaido, Japan's northern main island, Warner officials said there were no plans for additional performances and that tickets would be refunded beginning Monday.

Crows make mischief in Moscow

MOSCOW (R) — Siberian crows have been making mischief in Moscow, "bombing" the glass roof of the Gum Department Store with heavy stones, sliding down the gilded cupolas in the Kremlin and attacking cats and dogs. Moscow Pravda said that Gum, on the edge of Red Square facing the Kremlin, had replaced the glass covering the department store roof with a specially-reinforced transparent roof. The big grey-black birds, brought to Moscow in the 1970s to control the city's pigeon population, were apparently attracted by the sound of breaking glass. The report was the latest on the exploits of birds, which have proliferated in the relatively mild climate of the capital after the rigours of their native habitat. Earlier reports from Moscow architects said the crows had enjoyed sliding down the gilded cupolas on the Kremlin's historic churches and had damaged several of them. Loudspeakers emitting animal cries were set up to scare away the crows, flocks of which take over lawns around the Kremlin in the early evening. Moscow animal lovers say the crows have not only reduced the pigeon population but are also driving sparrows out of the city and have been known to attack dogs and cats and kill kittens.

Women plan to go topless in public

ROCHESTER, New York (AP) — One of seven women arrested last year for baring their breasts in a city park says it would be nice if topless women attracted no more attention than shirtless men. Unfortunately, says Mary Lou Schloss, it's still a spectacle, so some of last year's protesters will hold another topless picnic Sunday to mark the anniversary of their arrests and continue to press their cause. "Basically, we're just making it clear that we have not given up the fight for our rights," Schloss said. Last June 21, Schloss and six other women removed their shirts before a large jeering crowd, television cameras and the watchful eyes of a group of police officers. They bared their breasts to protest a New York state law that allows men, but not women, to appear naked from the waist up in public. They claimed the law was discriminatory. Their protest and subsequent week-long trial three months later attracted international attention. The "topless seven," the name they gave themselves, brought in experts from around the country to testify about nudity, sex and women's breasts. One expert brought a Barbie doll to the witness stand to illustrate the unattainable beauty ideals women are confronted with. Another testified the United States is obsessed with the female breast. The women hoped to persuade Judge Herman Walz that the law was unconstitutional. Walz acquitted them, but didn't rule the law unconstitutional.

Italian porno star warned about her act

VIAREGGIO, Italy (R) — Italian porno star Ilona "Cicciolina" Staller returned to the stage for the first time since winning a seat in parliament only to be told by police that she would be accused of obscenity yet again. Staller, elected to the Chamber of Deputies last Monday on a Radical Party ticket, performed for about 200 people in a night club in Viareggio, a city on the Tuscan coast. After the show the deputy police chief of the nearby provincial capital of Lucca said he would ask magistrates formally to accuse Staller, whose nickname means "little fleshy one" of violating article 528 of Italy's penal code. But the "Right Honourable Staller," as she will be known when Italy's new parliament is convened on July 2, will be immune to criminal prosecution unless her legislative colleagues vote that she should stand trial. Witnesses said Staller, whose props in the show included chains, a whip, stuffed animal and a live snake whose mouth was taped shut to avoid bites in awkward poses, spoke her aims in parliament. She said she would work to abolish article 528 of the penal code which prohibits obscene shows. She said she wanted sex education in primary schools. "I want to go ahead, like Joan of Arc, with a battle against the 'sexual decency,'" she told the crowd. A newly-established moral watchdog group has said it would fight to prevent taking her seat. An environmental group Friends of the Earth had tried to prevent Staller using the live snake on the grounds that it was cruel.

GOREN BRIDGE

BY CHARLES GOREN
AND OMAR SHARIF
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DEAR MR. GOREN

Q.—I am not quite sure about my priorities as a responder after partner opens one of a suit. What should I look for?—D.A., Madison, Wis.

A.—That depends to a certain extent on whether partner opened one of a major and whether you are playing four- or five-card majors. First, let's consider what to do after partner opens with one of a major. Your responses are basically the same no matter whether he promises five cards in the suit for his opening bid or only four.

1. Raise partner's suit. If you have located an eight-card or better fit, you want to raise partner's suit to the appropriate level to announce to him that a fit exists. This enables him to re-evaluate his hand and judge the potential of the combined holding.

2. If no fit exists, jump to two no trump or three no trump to announce the strength of your hand within close limits.

3. With no fit and a hand unsuitable for no trump, bid a new suit. The range for a new suit response is very wide—from a minimum of 6 points at the one-level to almost anything if your hand is unsuitable for a jump shift. However, you must have a good enough hand if you are going to introduce the new suit at the two-level.

4. With a very strong hand and a fit for partner's suit, or with a very strong hand and a self-sufficient suit of your own, make a jump

shift.

5. If your hand falls into none of the above categories, you probably have to respond one no trump.

By and large, responses to minor-suit opening bids follow a similar pattern. However, here priority should be given to introducing a major suit if you have one. But don't distort your bidding by showing a four-card major at the expense of a five-card or longer minor, unless you would have to go to the two-level and do not have the strength for that. Make your natural response.

Q.—Recently, there has been talk about establishing a Bridge Hall of Fame. What do you think of the idea?—C.F., Tampa, Fla.

A.—This is not a new idea. It was first suggested by my good friend Lee Hazen almost a quarter of a century ago, and was inaugurated by The Bridge World in 1964. The first three members were Harold Vanderbilt, Ely Culbertson and a writer whose name modesty prevents me from mentioning. The next three were Oswald Jacoby, Sidney Lenz and Milton Work.

I like the idea, and am sorry it was not kept up. While I do not expect it to become a shrine where millions will come to worship their heroes, I do think a permanent place is needed to record the history of the game.